



Daily Report

East Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

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Japan

Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze Begins Visit

Uno Previews Talks

OW1812050488 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Uno, in an interview regarding a visit to Japan by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze which begins this afternoon, said that he will seek progress on the northern territories question in the Japan-USSR regular foreign ministers' talks, which begin tomorrow. He also indicated that he would strongly request that General Secretary Gorbachev visit Japan.

[Begin recording] [Uno] It will be stressed that the two countries' becoming close is necessary not only for bilateral relations but also for the stability of Asia and the rest of the world. I would like to present our views on the northern territories issues based on various historical facts from this viewpoint, and would like to ask them to accept our position, also from this viewpoint.

Exchanges going on now between the United States and the Soviet Union are brisk, and I think the same should happen between Japan and the Soviet Union.

This time the talks are between foreign ministers, but I really want to have a Takeshita-Gorbachev meeting realized. Naturally, I will make a strong request for it this time. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will arrive in Japan this afternoon and is due to meet with Foreign Minister Uno three times in the 2 days of the Japan-USSR regular foreign ministers' talks, which begin tomorrow.

View of Business Community

OW1712074588 Tokyo KYODO in English 0637 GMT
17 Dec 88

[By Sei Ogawa]

[Text] Sapporo, Dec. 17 KYODO—The business community in Hokkaido sees the scheduled visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze as a chance to develop a more trusting relationship with Japan but does not expect it to dramatically improve bilateral economic ties.

Shevardnadze's four-day visit, starting Sunday, will give Japanese a first hand look at how serious Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is about "perestroika" or economic restructuring, an economic adviser to the Hokkaido prefectural government said.

Nobuo Arai, senior researcher of the Hokkaido Institute for Regional Studies, said, "There will be basically no room for discussing economic issues in detail during Shevardnadze's visit."

Arai said the scheduled talks between Shevardnadze and his counterpart Sosuke Uno is not expected to break the ice on the issue of the four Soviet-held islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Habomai and Shikotan—off eastern Hokkaido.

He said he is interested in whether Shevardnadze will ask Japan to extend economic help following the December 7 quake that killed 55,000 people in Soviet Armenia.

"If Japan extends free economic aid to the Soviets from a humanitarian point of view, it may be regarded as a beginning of new bilateral ties when looking back a few years from now," Arai said.

The Soviet Union received generous aid from Western Europe and the United States for the first time since the end of World War II as a result of the quake, Arai said.

Arai said Gorbachev's address at the United Nations making a unilateral cut of 500,000 Soviet troops was symbolic of his desire to put greater importance on its mutual interests with Western nations.

Foreign Minister Uno told Hokkaido Governor Takahiro Yokomichi in Sapporo last month that the Japanese business community understands the ministry's view that full-scale economic cooperation with the Soviet Union cannot take place until prospects for solving the northern territories issue improve.

Uno made his remarks in the wake of a reported cancellation in October of a large-scale mission to the Soviet Union planned by the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), industry sources said.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry is not expected to change its policy that Japan's economic relations with the Soviet Union is tied to progress on the issue of the northern territories occupied by Russian troops after the end of World War II, the sources said.

Keidanren Chairman Eishiro Saito said in his December 12 press conference in Tokyo that the current state of affairs precludes a joint government/private business delegation from visiting the Soviet Union.

Saito indicated he hopes the Shevardnadze-Uno meeting will make headway on the dispute.

Keidanren would like to send a mission that would include members from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the Foreign Ministry, but there are no immediate prospects for such a visit, Keidanren officials said.

Some 90 to 95 percent of Japan's trade is now conducted by big trading houses, with direct Soviet trade only of minor importance for such firms at present, one industry source said.

In West Germany, however, smaller companies doing business with the Soviet Union account for about 70 percent of the total and helps boost employment in the European nation, he said.

Major Japanese trading houses often team up with U.S. firms on business ventures in the Soviet Union in order to avoid violating the Cocom rules which regulate sophisticated equipment exports to the Communist bloc, the source said.

Planning joint ventures in the Soviet Union by big corporations like Mitsubishi Corp. and Mitsui and Co. will be necessary, however, to secure their foothold in case the Soviet market turns out to be lucrative, the source added.

Report on Draft Communiqué

OW1712141488 Tokyo KYODO in English 1356 GMT
17 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 17 KYODO—The Soviet Union has shown a more flexible stance than before concerning the Soviet-Japanese dispute over the northern territories, Foreign Ministry sources said Saturday.

The sources said this is reflected in the Soviet draft of a joint communiqué to be issued after the coming round of talks between Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze is scheduled to arrive in Tokyo Sunday to attend a regular foreign ministers' meeting between the two countries.

The sources said the Soviet draft refers to the territorial issue with wording similar to that of the previous communiqué issued when Shevardnadze came to Japan in January 1986.

The previous statement said the territorial dispute could be one of issues to be contained in a Japanese-Soviet peace treaty.

The sources said the Foreign Ministry wants to seek a greater concession from the Soviet Union so that the forthcoming communiqué will refer to the issue in clearer terms.

A Japanese draft already shown to Moscow through diplomatic channels contains a reference to the territorial issue based on the joint Japanese-Soviet declaration of 1956, which confirmed a territorial issue exists between the two nations.

The dispute involves four north Pacific islands seized and held by the Soviet Union since the end of World War II but claimed by Japan.

Shevardnadze Arrives in Tokyo

OW1812041488 Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT
18 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived Sunday afternoon for a four-day visit to Tokyo for talks with Japanese leaders on bilateral and international issues.

Shevardnadze is being accompanied by about 40 officials, including Vice Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev and Ludvig Chizhov, director for Asian-Pacific affairs of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

This is Shevardnadze's first visit to Tokyo in two years and 11 months.

He and Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno will hold three round of talks on subjects, including Japan's long-standing demand for the return of four islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, Japanese sources said.

Shevardnadze will also meet Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Shintaro Abe, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic party, and former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

After Tokyo, the Soviet foreign minister will visit the Philippines and North Korea.

Shevardnadze Views Ties

OW1812064988 Tokyo KYODO in English 0617 GMT
18 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Soviet-Japan relations fall short of their potential, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said upon arrival at Tokyo's Haneda International Airport on Sunday for ministerial-level consultations on bilateral and international issues.

In a brief arrival statement, Shevardnadze said his first visit to Tokyo in almost three years should serve to move Soviet-Japan relations in a forward direction amid a new atmosphere brought about by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's initiatives in the region.

The degree of political dialogue and mutual understanding between Japan and the Soviet Union is insufficient in light of the weight the two countries have in resolving international problems, the Soviet foreign minister said.

Shevardnadze's 40-member entourage, which includes Vice Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev and Lyudvig Chizhov, director of Asian-Pacific affairs, was met at the airport by Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, Japanese Ambassador to Moscow Toshiaki Muto and Soviet Ambassador to Japan Nikolay Solov'yev.

Shevardnadze said the Soviet people and government are grateful to Japan for the assistance it rendered after the recent massive earthquake which devastated the Soviet Republic of Armenia.

Shevardnadze and Uno will begin their first of three rounds of wide-ranging talks on Monday morning.

The two-day discussions are expected to center around the territorial dispute over four Japanese-claimed islands off Hokkaido and prospects for a visit to Japan by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze will leave Japan on Wednesday for visits to the Philippines and North Korea.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry will release the contents of a joint communique Wednesday [21 December] afternoon.

Further on Arrival Statement, Agenda
*OW1812115688 Tokyo KYODO in English 1109 GMT
18 Dec 88*

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Japan Sunday to attend a two-day ministerial conference in which the two countries will discuss the prospects for an official visit to Japan by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and a dispute over four islands occupied by the Soviets since the end of World War II.

In his brief arrival statement at Haneda International Airport, Shevardnadze said Soviet-Japan relations have fallen short of their potential and expressed his hope that the forthcoming political dialogue will set relations on the right track.

Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who will meet with Shevardnadze on Tuesday [20 December], huddled with advisors Sunday afternoon at his private residence and mapped out Japan's negotiating position for the talks between Uno and Shevardnadze which will commence Monday morning.

In their first round of talks, the two sides will discuss East-West relations and regional issues such as the situation on the Korean Peninsula, Sino-Soviet rapprochement, and Kampuchea.

The disputed "northern territories"—Kunashiri, Etorofu, the Shikotan Islands and the Habomai group—will be taken up as the major topic in the afternoon session.

Uno stated Sunday that Japan will place top priority on obtaining a formal Soviet acknowledgement of the territorial dispute and of the need to address it in negotiations toward a belated peace treaty.

In that regard, Japan is expected to press the Soviets to agree to include a clear reference to the northern territories in the final joint communique.

A Soviet draft which has already been submitted to Japan makes no specific reference to the territorial dispute and differs little from the communiqués issued at the last ministerial talks in Moscow in June 1986 and in Tokyo in January 1986, government sources said.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry will release the agreed-upon contents of the new joint communique Wednesday afternoon after Shevardnadze departs for the Philippines and North Korea.

During his meeting with Takeshita, Shevardnadze will likely pass on an invitation to visit Moscow. Takeshita is expected to renew a 1986 invitation to Gorbachev and point out that no Kremlin leader has ever visited Japan even though four Japanese prime ministers have been to Moscow in the postwar period.

The Soviet foreign minister will also meet Tuesday with former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, who has been actively campaigning for the islands' return, and Shintaro Abe, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and foreign minister during Shevardnadze's last visit here in January 1986. [passage omitted]

First Round of Talks Open
*OW1912034688 Tokyo KYODO in English 0318 GMT
19 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze expressed his thanks Monday for a new Japanese offer to help rehabilitate the Soviet Republic of Armenia from earthquake damage, Japanese officials said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno made the offer after welcoming Shevardnadze at the ministry's Iikura Guesthouse in downtown Tokyo.

Before entering into the first of three scheduled rounds of talks with Uno, a smiling Shevardnadze shook hands with high-level Japanese officials telling them in Russian, "nice to see you."

Uno and Shevardnadze are focusing much of the first session on discussions of East-West relations following the superpower agreement on the elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

The two men will discuss Japan's longstanding call for the return of four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido during the second session scheduled for Monday afternoon, the officials said.

Five other officials from each side joined the two foreign ministers in the first session. On the Japanese side were Ambassador to Moscow Toshiaki Muto, Deputy Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama, and Takehiro Togo, director general for European and Oceanic affairs.

Soviet Ambassador to Tokyo Nikolai Solovyev, Vice Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev and Lyudvig Chizhov, head of Asian and Pacific Affairs, were among the Soviet officials.

Shevardnadze, who arrived in Tokyo on Sunday for a four-day visit, his first in two years and 11 months, visited the Imperial Palace on Monday morning and signed his name and title in a register wishing for the early recovery of the ailing Emperor Hirohito, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Shevardnadze, Uno To Hold More Talks

*OW1912074788 Tokyo KYODO in English 0631 GMT
19 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze agreed Monday to hold more frequent talks between them other than their regular consultations to pave the way for a Japan-Soviet summit meeting, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The two foreign ministers reached the agreement during the first of three rounds of talks held at the Foreign Ministry's Iikura Guest House in Tokyo on Monday morning.

Shevardnadze expressed a strong wish to improve bilateral ties between Tokyo and Moscow, saying he wants to open "a new chapter" in Japan-Soviet relations, the officials said.

Uno was quoted as saying that developments in Japan-Soviet ties will lead to stability and peace in the Asia-Pacific region in particular and the world in general, and that he wants to iron out differences between the two countries step by step.

Japan and the Soviet Union have a basic agreement to hold regular consultations at the foreign minister level every year.

Besides this, the Japanese and Soviet foreign ministers meet annually in the autumn in New York while attending the United Nations General Assembly session.

Shevardnadze last came to Tokyo in January 1986, and then Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe went to Moscow in May that year.

In September 1987, then Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari met Shevardnadze in New York.

This autumn, however, there were no contacts at the foreign minister level in New York as Uno canceled a scheduled trip to the United States because of Emperor Hirohito's illness.

Uno told Shevardnadze that Japan has a strong interest in the perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness) policies being advanced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

In response, Shevardnadze pointed out that the international situation is changing and his country has improved its relations with the United States and countries in Western Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia, the officials said.

The Soviet foreign minister, citing growing bilateral exchanges in the fields of trade, economy and culture, said he does not think that Japan-Soviet relations have been completely stagnant.

Shevardnadze explained Gorbachev's speech at the United Nations General Assembly on December 7 proposing unilateral troop cuts in the Soviet armed forces, the officials said.

Uno responded by saying that Japan will carefully watch the future implementation of Gorbachev's peace initiatives and welcomes the "new thinking" in the Soviet diplomacy.

Concerning the Asia-Pacific situation, Uno expressed his concern over the Soviet military buildup in East Asia and called for a reduction of forces there to promote the security of the region, the officials said.

Uno also asked for more Soviet efforts to bring an end to the 10-year-old conflict in Kampuchea and to promote stability on the Korean peninsula, they said.

Asked about possible Soviet contributions to economic development in the Asia-Pacific region, Shevardnadze noted changes in the Kremlin's policies toward the region, the officials said.

Uno called on Shevardnadze to make public the detailed figures of Soviet naval strength in East Asia.

In response, the Soviet foreign minister expressed readiness to announce the figures and stressed the importance of holding a conference on arms reduction in the Asia-Pacific area.

At the outset of their three-hour morning session, Shevardnadze expressed his thanks for a new Japanese offer to help rehabilitate the Soviet Republic of Armenia from earthquake damages, the officials said.

The talks, attended by some 10 officials from each side, were conducted in a frank and friendly atmosphere, according to the officials.

Among the Japanese were Ambassador to Moscow Toshiaki Muto, Deputy Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama, and Takehiro Togo, director general for European and Oceanic affairs.

Ambassador to Tokyo Nikolay Solovye, Vice Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev and Lyudvig Chizhov, head of Asian and Pacific affairs, were among the Soviet officials.

Before entering into the first round, Shevardnadze who arrived in Tokyo on Sunday on a four-day visit, visited the Imperial Palace and signed his name and title in a register wishing for the early recovery of the ailing Emperor Hirohito, Foreign Ministry officials said.

After holding the second round with Uno in the afternoon, he will have the third and last one with him on Tuesday.

Shevardnadze is also scheduled to meet separately with Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Shintaro Abe, all on Tuesday.

He will leave for Manila on Wednesday.

'Rightist' Arrested for Protesting
OW1812142988 Tokyo KYODO in English 1307 GMT
18 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—The Metropolitan Police Department on Sunday arrested a rightist who repeatedly criticized visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze over a loudspeaker.

Hiro Yoshi Fudeyasu, 48, was arrested in front of the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo while calling for Shevardnadze to leave the country.

He was the first person arrested for violating a new law which bars campaigning with loudspeakers near the Diet, foreign embassies and political party offices.

Police said Fudeyasu ignored a policeman's order to end his high-volume protest. Fudeyasu was also arrested in June 1975 when he hit then Prime Minister Takeo Miki at the funeral of former Prime Minister Eisaku Sato.

During Shevardnadze's visit in November 1986, 753 rightists in a motorcade demonstrated but only 23 rightists demonstrated upon Shevardnadze's arrival here Sunday, according to the police.

Hokkaido, Soviet Far East Economic Ties Viewed

Differing Views on Future
OW1712105088 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT
17 Dec 88

["Ties Between Hokkaido, Soviet Far East 'Rosy'?"—KYODO headline; by Sei Ogawa—"The first of two articles about economic ties between Hokkaido and the Soviet Far East"]

[Text] Sapporo, Dec. 17 KYODO—The need for promoting ties with the neighboring Soviet Far East is widely felt by people in Hokkaido but views differ about whether the future holds a rosy picture or not.

Because of its location, the prefectural government of Japan's northernmost main island actively supports economic cooperation projects between the Hokkaido business community and three Soviet Far East regions.

This is in sharp contrast to the view held by the Japanese Foreign Ministry that Japan's economic ties with the Soviet Union are inseparable from the unsolved question of the four Soviet-held Japanese islands located off eastern Hokkaido.

Hokkaido started its "constant" dialogue with three Soviet Far East regional governments when Gov. Takahiro Yokomichi visited Khabarovsk, Sakhalin and Primorski regions in the summer of last year.

"There is a common understanding that promoting exchanges of commodities and people between the Soviet Far East and Hokkaido is vital," Toshiaki Ohta, director of the Hokkaido prefectural government's commerce and distribution division, said.

But Ohta said the picture of economic cooperation with the Soviet Far East is "not rosy" as operating joint undertakings with the Soviet Union on a commercial basis is difficult.

Ohta said that under "perestroika" or economic restructuring local governments are authorized to exercise power but funds, know-how and personnel are lacking in the Soviet Far East.

Ohta, however, said it is vital to expand exports of Hokkaido products to the Soviet Far East as Hokkaido has a huge trade deficit in its trade with the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union exported 24,602 million yen worth of lumber, heavy oil, coke, pulp and frozen codfish eggs to Hokkaido in 1987, while Hokkaido shipped 1,849 million yen worth of steel sheets, tin can, synthetic fiber fishing nets, transportation machinery and steel alloy sheets.

The Soviet Union is very eager to get Japanese technology from Hokkaido in the resources processing field, a Hokkaido government source said.

"Such mini-projects are now needed in the Soviet Far East as there is a huge loss in processing resources," he said.

But firms in Hokkaido in general are reluctant to enter into joint ventures in such projects as fish processing as they feel they cannot anticipate how much risk is involved in business with the Soviet Union, the source said.

Hokuren, a powerful distributor body of farm produce in Hokkaido, started sample exports of onions to Sakhalin in 1986 and discussed building a vegetable storage facility there. It shipped 500 kilograms of onions to Sakhalin in October this year, a Hokuren source said.

Minoru Wakasa, Hokuren director of trade promotion, said Hokuren puts importance both on extending technology to the Soviet Far East and trade ties with the region.

Hokuren signed a note on a five-year working program of expanding cooperation in farm technology last February.

The program includes rice cultivation technology, exchanges of seeds such as cabbage, cucumber, tomato, soybeans and pasture, and information and specialists.

The Soviet Far East has a similar climate to that of Hokkaido, which means Hokuren's farm technology's suited to the soil there, Wakasa said.

Hokuren shipped six bulls for breeding purposes from Kushiro to Sakhalin last year and they are doing their job well there, Wakasa said.

Ferry To Link Hokkaido, Sakhalin
*OW1712120288 Tokyo KYODO in English 1059 GMT
17 Dec 88*

["Chartered Ferry To Link Hokkaido, Sakhalin"—KYODO headline; by Sei Ogawa—"The second of two articles about economic ties between Hokkaido and the Soviet Far East"]

[Text] Sapporo, Dec. 17 KYODO—Chartered ferry service linking Hokkaido and Sakhalin will start next spring offering "reasonable" prices for Japanese tourists but whether a direct scheduled service will pay commercially is still a question.

In an unprecedented move the Hokkaido prefectural government established a joint working group in mid-November with Sakhalin and Khabarovsk governments to study the possibility of opening direct sea routes between Hokkaido and the Soviet Far East.

Hokkaido prefectural government officials said, however, chartered ferry service linking Wakkanai, the northernmost Hokkaido city facing the Soya Strait, and Kholmsk in Sakhalin will be planned on a private basis and not discussed in the joint working group.

The officials said both sides agreed that substantial proof of the need for transporting goods and tourists is needed before opening a sea route on a permanent basis.

Igor I. Ivanov, vice consul of the Soviet Consulate General in Sapporo, said he is "optimistic about economic cooperation" between the Soviet Far East and Hokkaido through inauguration of the chartered ferry service.

Ivanov said a direct sea route is necessary to promote ties between Hokkaido and the Soviet Far East. "Now the loss of time and money is too much," Ivanov said.

Ivanov also said it will take only six to eight hours to cruise the 180 kilometers between Wakkanai and Kholmsk.

The Sakhalin Shipping Co. will use a ferry capable of carrying 72 passengers, enabling a reduction of the round fare to 70,000 yen, Ivanov said. Now travelers to Sakhalin have to go first to Niigata and then fly to Sakhalin via Khabarovsk and the cost is around 300,000 yen.

One problem of this ferry operation is that the Soviet ferryboat will have to sail four times to carry a group of Japanese visitors to Sakhalin, a Hokkaido prefectural government source said.

If the ferry carries frozen fish or other goods each time on the Wakkanai-bound trip and transport some commodities on the way back or on the fourth trip after bringing back the Japanese travelers, it will be commercially paying, the source said.

The 29-member Hokkaido mission to Khabarovsk and Sakhalin last June, led by Vice Hokkaido Gov. Tsuneo Ueda, agreed with the Soviets to establish the joint working group.

The group, scheduled to hold the next session early next year, is studying establishing a freight service between Otaru and Vanino, the terminal of the second Siberian railway, besides the Wakkanai-Kholmsk route.

"The chartered ferry service will be started on a trial basis in a private manner," one official in charge of trade promotion in the Hokkaido prefectural government said. "But we hope it will help vitalize smaller industries in Hokkaido."

Calling a sea route with the Soviet Far East regular and scheduled is difficult for Hokkaido at present as permission from the central government is required, the official, who declined to be named, said.

He pointed out that the government sees economic ties with the Soviets cannot be separated from the pending issue of the four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido.

For Hokkaido, the Soviet Far East is a potentially big market that cannot be ignored, one trader said.

"The Soviet Far East is lucrative as a market for Hokkaido's farm produce," he said.

"Hokkaido has communities like Nemuro and Kushiro whose people cannot survive without catching fish in Soviet waters," the trader said.

More on DPRK Defector Allowed To Stay
*OW1612134988 Tokyo KYODO in English 1012 GMT
16 Dec 88*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—Japan on Friday gave permission for a North Korean soldier stowaway to stay in Japan permanently, Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi announced the same day.

The government spokesman told a press conference that it was difficult and inappropriate to further delay a decision on Min Hong-ku, both on humanitarian grounds and by law, because five years have passed since he arrived in Japan.

Obuchi said the government has decided to take measures respecting his will as far as possible in accordance with law and international practice and that officials of the United Nations high Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have questioned him about his wishes since last November.

It has been confirmed that Min wants to reside permanently in Japan and Justice Minister Yukio Hayashida granted special permission for him to stay in Japan on Friday, the chief cabinet secretary said.

The government accepted Min's wish to stay here permanently, but he is allowed to travel abroad freely, Obuchi said.

prior to the public announcement of the legal measure, Japan notified the Soviet Union, China, the United States, South Korea and three neutral countries in Europe, Foreign Ministry officials said.

According to the Foreign Ministry, officials of the Foreign and Justice Ministries confirmed Min's strong will to live in Japan rather than seek asylum in South Korea, his initial intention.

Representatives of the UNHCR branch office in Japan and officials of the South Korean Embassy in Tokyo also reconfirmed the North Korean soldier's desires.

As for two Japanese seamen detained in North Korea, the officials said Japan will make its utmost efforts to obtain their release by trying to improve overall relations with Pyongyang, which presently has no diplomatic ties with Tokyo.

Min was arrested November 4, 1983, when he was found hiding aboard the Japanese freighter No 18 Fujisan Maru. He allegedly boarded the ship while it was anchored at Nampo Port, North Korea, with the aim of seeking asylum in Japan.

The Japanese Government refused him asylum in line with Japan's policy of not accepting political refugees.

The North Korean former soldier was paroled on November 2 last year after four years of detention.

On November 15, 1983, North Korea seized all five crew members of the Fujisan Maru on spy charges when the Japanese vessel re-entered Nampo Port.

Three of the five were sent back to Japan three months later, but the other two, Isamu Beniko, the skipper, and Yoshio Kuriura, chief engineer, have been detained ever

since in North Korea. The two were sentenced by a North Korean court on December 24 last year to "15 years of reformation through labor."

Asked about possible effects on the case of the two Japanese seamen, Obuchi said the government made its decision on humanitarian grounds and there was nothing to criticize.

He said the government hopes North Korea will deal with the detained Japanese seamen in the same manner and send them back to Japan. The government will continue to do everything it can to help realize the release of the seamen, he said.

"Japan will brief Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Japan's view on the issue during upcoming talks and it will be appreciated if the Soviet foreign minister acts in line with Japan's desires," Obuchi said.

Shevardnadze is scheduled to visit the Philippines and North Korea after visiting Japan December 18-21.

Negotiations between Tokyo and Pyongyang over the release of the Japanese seamen have been deadlocked since Japan imposed sanctions against North Korea last January in the wake of the downing of a South Korean airliner with 115 people aboard, allegedly bombed by North Korean agents.

Japan lifted the package of sanctions on September 16 in hopes of securing a favorable reaction from Pyongyang.

Reagan Pressed Nakasone To Buy Supercomputers
OW1612142588 Tokyo KYODO in English 1334 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—A Foreign Ministry official confirmed Friday that U.S. President Ronald Reagan pressed then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone at a summit meeting in Washington in May last year to buy U.S. supercomputers and Nakasone promised to do so.

Kenji Kodama, a Japan Communist Party member, questioned the government about the controversial resale by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) of two supercomputers made by Cray Research Inc. to Recruit Co., an information conglomerate and the key company in the widening Recruit Cosmos stock profiteering scandal.

Katsuhisa Uchida, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Affairs Bureau, told the special committee investigating the scandal that Reagan called for the procurement of U.S.-made supercomputers as part of Japan's efforts to help reduce its trade surplus with the United States.

Nakasone told Reagan that the Japanese Government was taking measures to have Japanese public corporations procure U.S. supercomputers, that the procurement would

be possible through the supplementary budget for Fiscal 1987 and that he had heard NTT would buy one supercomputer from the U.S. according to Uchida.

Haruo Yamaguchi, president of NTT, testified as an unsworn witness that NTT purchased a Cray II supercomputer in March 1987 and that his company had no plan then to buy another supercomputer.

NTT resold the first Cray supercomputer to Recruit in December 1986 and purchased a second Cray supercomputer in June 1987, also reselling it to Recruit in December 1987.

Two former NTT executives and an aide to former NTT Chairman Hisashi Shinto were offered unlisted shares of Recruit Cosmos, a real estate subsidiary of Recruit, in 1986. The shares rocketed in value immediately after they went public in the over-the-counter market.

Shinto resigned Wednesday after it was confirmed that 9 million yen of the profit from the stock trading by the aide had been transferred to Shinto's bank account.

Three former secretaries to Nakasone were among the 159 recipients of unlisted Recruit Cosmos shares.

Cabinet Reshuffle Expected To Take Place

Takeshita Meets With Abe

OW1712123388 Tokyo KYODO in English 1126 GMT
17 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita hopes to win Diet approval of six tax reform bills on December 23 and to reorganize his cabinet the following day, government and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) sources said Saturday.

Takeshita and LDP Secretary General Shintaro Abe met at the prime minister's private residence here for more than an hour and a half Saturday and agreed to steer political business on this schedule.

The prime minister, who is also LDP president, told Abe that he will retain the three top party officers—Abe as secretary general, Masayoshi Ito as chairman of the Executive Council, and Michio Watanabe as chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council, according to the sources.

Takeshita will open a series of meetings on Monday with leaders of intraparty factions before cementing his idea in the reorganization of the cabinet, they said.

Meanwhile, representatives of the LDP and opposition parties met at the Diet Saturday afternoon but failed to set schedule at the House of Councillors' tax system committee, which is handling the tax bills.

Despite strong objections from the largest opposition party, Japan Socialist Party, the LDP is ready to hold a vote-taking session at the upper house tax committee on December 21 and a plenary session on December 23, LDP sources said.

The second and third largest opposition parties, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party, which still call for a minor modification in the tax bills, are flexible about attending the plenary session.

If the upper house approves the bills, they will become law since the House of Representatives already passed them on November 16.

The tax bills include one to impose a controversial 3-percent consumption tax on all types of goods and services in April 1989.

Takeshita and Abe agreed to establish an LDP panel and an advisory body to study ways to promote what Takeshita calls political reform, which will be one of Takeshita's main tasks after obtaining Diet approval of the tax bills, the sources said.

The political reform means a revision of the election system, a tightening on political funds and strict observance of political ethics, which has become a focus of national interest in the wake of the six-month-long Recruit stock trading scandal.

The prime minister hopes to ask former Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda to handle political reform matters, the sources said. Gotoda, who served as chief of staff for former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, currently heads the LDP research commission on the election system.

Of the 20 cabinet posts, which do not include the premiership, the finance portfolio will go to Tatsuo Murayama, the sources said.

Murayama, an expert on financial affairs, is loyal to Kiichi Miyazawa, who stepped down as deputy prime minister and finance minister on December 9 because of his involvement in the Recruit scandal.

Takeshita hopes to retain Keizo Obuchi as chief cabinet secretary in the upcoming reshuffle, Takeshita aides said.

Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, a close associate of Nakasone, is also tipped to remain in the post. However, there are voices among Nakasone aides demanding that Uno be replaced in order to speed up rotation of office.

Reshuffle Scheduled for 29 December

OW1912041488 Tokyo KYODO in English 0347 GMT
19 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita will reorganize the cabinet and lineup of top officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on December 29, not December 23 or 24 as reported earlier, LDP sources said Monday.

Takeshita, talking with reporters briefly at the Diet, strongly denied speculation that he will reshuffle the cabinet this week, saying there is no precedent for such an action while the Diet is in session.

In a 46-minute meeting with Masayoshi Ito, chairman of the LDP executive council, at the Diet on Monday morning, Takeshita confirmed the dates, telling him he will reorganize the cabinet after the Diet ends its current session on December 28.

The prime minister told Ito, however, that he will name Tatsuo Murayama as finance minister immediately after obtaining Diet approval of six tax reform bills.

Murayama, who is known as an expert on financial affairs, is loyal to former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Takeshita, has concurrently served as finance minister since Miyazawa resigned from the cabinet on December 9 to take responsibility for his involvement in a stock trading scandal.

The LDP hopes the tax bills may be passed by the House of Councillors as early as Thursday, LDP sources said.

The bills will become law on completing their passage through the second chamber since the House of Representatives passed them in mid-November. The bills include one to impose a 3 percent consumption tax on all types of goods and services, effective April 1, 1989.

Takeshita told Ito he will retain the three top LDP officers—Shintaro Abe as secretary general, Ito himself as chairman of the decision-making Executive Council, and Michio Watanabe as chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council.

JSP Vows To Resist Passage of Tax Bills

OW1912095588 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT
19 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—The Japan Socialist Party (JSP) said Monday it will put up maximum resistance if the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) try to force the six reform bills through the House of Councillors this week.

The largest opposition party will file 21 separate motions censuring Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and each of his cabinet ministers in a House of Councillors plenary session, said Shun Oide, chairman of the JSP Diet Affairs Committee.

In the House of Representatives, the JSP will table a motion of no-confidence in the Takeshita cabinet, Oide said.

The LDP is set to pass the tax bills through the upper house's tax system committee on Wednesday and through the second chamber's plenary session on Friday, LDP sources said.

Oide told a press conference that more discussions are necessary in the House of Councillors, noting that there is still time available since the current session of the Diet does not close until December 28.

The tax bills include one to impose a 3 percent consumption tax on all types of goods and services on April 1, 1989, which is the main cause for resistance from opposition parties.

The bills will become law if the upper chamber passes them. The lower house approved the bills in mid-November.

North Korea

Yon Hyong-muk Message to South's Kang Yong-hun

SK1712044688 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0439 GMT 17 Dec 88

["Yon Hong-muk, Premier of Administration Council of DPRK, Sends Telephone Message to South Korean 'Prime Minister'."—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 17 (KCNA)—Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today sent a message through the Red Cross direct telephone links to Kang Yong-hun, South Korean "prime minister."

Two liaison officials will be sent to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at three p.m. December 20, 1988, to hand over a letter to the South Korean "prime minister," says the message, asking the South Korean side to take a relevant measure.

Text of Message

SK1712033488 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0312 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text of telephone message from Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, to ROK Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun]

[Text] To Kang Yong-hun, prime minister of the Republic of Korea [Taehan Minguk]:

I will send two liaison officials to the Conference Room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at 1500 on 20 December to convey the letter addressed to you.

I hope that your side will take corresponding steps.

[Signed] Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council

[Dated] 17 December 1988

Olympic Committee Head Telephones South
SK1912102088 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1013 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—Kim Yu-sun, chairman of the DPRK Olympic Committee, today sent a telephone message to Kim Chong-ha, chairman of the South Korean Olympic Committee, through the Red Cross hot line.

Stating that two liaison officials will be sent to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at 10:00 December 21, 1988, to hand over a letter to the chairman of the South Korean Olympic Committee, the message requested the latter to take a corresponding step.

Dailies Deny Economic Exchanges With South
SK1812084788 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0821 GMT 18 Dec 88

["Political Intrigues for Sinister Purpose"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets continue spreading now rumours of something like unofficial economic exchange between us and them, letting out a string of rubbish about "import of coal" and "import of fishery products" of the North. Only recently, they even made the Japanese daily SANKEI SHIMBUN carry a false report that the director of the Daewoo group, a South Korean big business, "visited Pyongyang" in top secrecy.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today says:

Fascist repression and plot-breeding are the chief expedient of rule employed by the South Korean ruling quarters. But, what they are doing now simply surpasses human imagination. In kicking up a shine about "import" and "visit," as if they have some economic relations with us, the South Korean rulers are resorting to another political artifice motivated by an insidious aim, notes the news analyst, and continues: The plotters talk about "Pyongyang visit" of a South Korean businessman. But we know nothing of it. The point is why they felt constrained at this juncture to fake up things about non-existent economic exchange between the

North and the South and propagandise "Pyongyang visit" of a South Korean businessman which has never been paid. It is crystal clear.

The South Korean rulers are now leaving no measure untried in their bid to create "two Koreas" with the "approval" of socialist countries, making quite a noise about "July 7 declaration" and "northern policy." By creating the impression that there are economic relations between us and them, the puppets seek to create a climate for facilitating their splittist "northern policy." This is their chief aim.

By spreading gossips about "import" and "visit," the South Korean rulers hope to mislead public opinion with the impression that they are making some efforts for the improvement of North-South relations and thus lull the reunification movement of the people within and evade international accusation and isolation without.

We have long since called for multi-faceted collaboration and exchange between the North and the South and there is not the slightest change in this stand now.

If the South Korean rulers really have the intention to develop North-South economic relations, they should renounce plot-breeding and accept our package of peace proposals and show enthusiasm in realising North-South parliamentary meeting at an early date.

MINJU CHOSON says that the puppets steeped in fabrication and false propaganda will face denunciation by people at home and abroad.

NODONG SINMUN Commentary
SK1812114088 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0008 GMT 18 Dec 88

[NODONG SINMUN 18 December commentary: "A Political Stratagem Designed for an Impure Purpose"]

[Text] Of late, the South Korean puppets are spreading false rumors as if an official economic exchange were being conducted between us and them, babbling about imports of coal and marine products from the North. Recently, they have gone so far as to spread the false report through the Japanese newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN that the president of the Daewoo business group, one of the South Korean business groups, visited Pyongyang in secret recently.

Along with fascist repression, stratagem has been a main ruling method of the South Korean rulers. Admitting that, their acts are beyond our imagination. The South Korean rulers have formulated anticommunism as their national state policy and have an evil anticommunist law such as the National Security Law, which bans personnel and material exchanges with us by defining our Republic as an antistate group.

The puppets said recently that they would consider revising the National Security Law. However, they still define our Republic as an antistate group. If it were true that a South Korean businessman had been to Pyongyang, he would already have been punished on charges of a procommunist act benefiting the enemy.

North-South economic talks, which were held several years ago by our initiative, were suspended without bearing any fruit because the South Korean rulers aggravated tensions extremely by holding a war exercise for northward invasion with the U.S. imperialists. The North-South parliamentary meeting, which includes on the agenda a discussion of the issues of announcing a joint declaration for North-South nonaggression and of realizing multilateral economic cooperation and exchanges between the North and the South, has failed to realize its convocation because of the South side's unreasonable stand and insincere attitude and has gone round and round in circles without making any progress even in the contact to prepare for the meeting. Such facts mean that the South Korean rulers themselves are blocking the road of North-South economic cooperation and exchange.

The strategists are talking about a visit to Pyongyang of South Korean economic businessmen. However, we have no idea what they are talking about. This alone is sufficient to understand that imports, visits, and the like that the South Korean rulers are babbling about, mobilizing even [word indistinct], are an out-and-out lie.

That the South Korean rulers are clamoring as if they were maintaining economic relations with us by babbling about imports, visits, and the like is another political stratagem designed to seek an impure purpose.

The point is why the South Korean rulers now felt the need to concoct North-South economic exchanges, which have never been conducted between them, as if it had been, and why they fabricated the nonexistent visit of a South Korean businessman to Pyongyang, as if it had been. It is clear. The South Korean rulers now stop at nothing to fabricate two Koreas under the (?recognition) of socialist countries while clamoring about the 7 July declaration, northward policy, and the like.

By creating the impression that economic relations exist between us and them, the puppets are trying to create an environment favorable for more easily conducting their splittist northward policy. This is their main purpose. There are also other schemes.

Recently, proceeding from our patriotic and nation-loving stand, we have repeatedly put forward epochal proposals for the country's peace and reunification, including the all-inclusive peace proposal. These proposals have aroused fervent support and sympathy at home and abroad. The South Korean people support our proposals for peace and reunification and are raising their voices to call for collaboration with communism and national reunification.

This has driven the puppets, who are seeking anticommunist confrontation and division, into a corner. The South Korean puppets' clamoring about imports, visits, and the like is intended to soothe the people's movement for reunification internally and to escape international criticism and isolation externally by misleading the people as if they were making some efforts for the improvement of North-South relations.

We have long called for multilateral collaboration and exchanges between the North and the South, and there is no change in such a stand now. In order to open a breakthrough in the improvement of North-South relations, including multilateral collaboration and exchanges between the North and the South, it is imperative to eliminate the danger of war on the Korean peninsula and to settle the problems of guaranteeing peace there. This is why we have recently not only put forth the four-point principles for peace and the all-inclusive peace proposal, but also proposed the convocation of North-South high-level political and military talks to discuss the issue of alleviating political and military confrontation between the North and the South while making sincere efforts to convene a North-South parliamentary conference at the earliest possible date.

The South Korean rulers' acts of having postponed the date of contact between parliamentarians of both sides to prepare for a North-South parliamentary conference without just and proper reasons while not responding to our proposal for North-South high-level political and military talks, of soothing the people's reunification movement through fabricated propaganda on the problem of economic relations, and of trying to accelerate the two Koreas plot by creating an environment favorable for the implementation of the northward policy are indeed mean.

This time, the Japanese newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN played the role of bugler of the puppets who are seeking two Koreas by spreading the false report that someone visited Pyongyang and the like. This is indeed a disgraceful act.

If the South Korean rulers really have the intention of developing North-South economic relations, they should take their hands off armed maneuvers, accept our all-inclusive peace proposal, and show sincerity in making the North-South parliamentary conference successful at the earliest possible date.

Shevardnadze Due To Visit Toward End of December
SK1812230088 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2200 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Concerning a visit to our country by the USSR foreign minister:

At the invitation of the DPRK Government, Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, is to make a working visit to our country toward the end of December 1988.

KCNA Report

SK1912043688 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0434 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and foreign minister of the USSR, will pay a working visit to Korea late in December 1988 upon the invitation of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Paper Denounces Lilley Remarks on Kwangju Incident
SK1712045288 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 0442 GMT
17 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 17 (KCNA)—U.S. Ambassador to South Korea James Lilley in a "lecture" on December 12 prattled that many South Korean people believed that the "United States was to blame for" the Kwangju incident in 1980 but the "Army mobilized in putting down the uprising was not under the U.S. control in those days." NODONG SINMUN today brands this as a cheap excuse of the criminals.

Lilley brazenfacedly spoke for the U.S. stand to shirk its responsibility for the Kwangju incident by wagging his tongue, but the stark fact of history cannot be reversed, the author of the commentary says, and notes:

Lilley blared as if the Kwangju bloodbath had been staged by the puppet Army outside the U.S. control but the U.S. imperialists have never transferred the prerogative of the supreme command over the South Korean puppet Army. The arch criminals of the bloodbath have already clarified that the United States is the manipulator of the Kwangju bloodbath. How can the United States shirk the blame with Lilley's feigning of ignorance?"

The call for arrest and punishment of the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group, chief culprits of the Kwangju bloodbath, is growing stronger in South Korea while the massive struggle against the U.S. imperialists who manipulated it is going on fiercely.

Upset by it, the U.S. imperialists made Lilley play a jugglery to tone down the resentment of the South Korean people and continue their policy of occupation.

That day Lilley let loose outcries, claiming that "it is not time to consider the reduction of U.S. troops" in South Korea and the "Army cut will be considered when there is a progress in detente". The U.S. imperialists' utterance that they will wait for a "progress in detente" without

withdrawing their troops from South Korea are tantamount to remarks that they will not withdraw their troops from South Korea in the future, too.

Our nation will never tolerate the moves of the U.S. imperialist aggressors to step up the policy of aggression and war.

South's Trade Mission to U.S. Criticized
SK1712101588 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1012 GMT 17 Dec 88

["Flattery to U.S. Masters"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 17 (KCNA)—A purchase mission of South Korea reportedly contracted to buy U.S.-made goods worth 432 million dollars from the United States.

The mission is made up of delegates from 19 comprador groups including Samsung, Daewoo and Hyundai. The mission made such contracts in different parts of the United States under the pressure of the U.S. monopolies to buy their goods at high prices.

This shows that the South Korean puppets and the comprador groups siding with them do not hesitate to bleed the workers and people white and shrink the economy in order to feather the nest of the U.S. masters.

The fact proves once again that the No Tae-u group and the comprador groups hand in glove with it are faithful agents who fawn upon the U.S. masters to prolong their days.

Daily Denounces Okinawa-Based Training Area
SK1712103088 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1025 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 17 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today charges that the building of facilities for tactical exercises for a real war by the U.S. Army special unit "green beret" in the Okinawa-based U.S. Marines training ground is part of the premeditated moves to increase the role of the special unit in another Korean war of aggression.

The news analyst notes:

Hidden behind this project to improve to perfection the facilities in the military training ground of the U.S. Marines, the scout for aggression on Korea, is the heinous intention to ignite another war in Korea by introducing most brutal and barbarious methods of warfare and realise wild aggressive designs on Korea and the rest of Asia at any cost.

It is an intolerable act going against the global trend of detente that the U.S. imperialists are now building the training ground for the special unit and getting frenzied in war preparations.

The U.S. imperialists must be aware of the consequences of the war exercises staged behind the curtain of disarmament.

South's Move To Participate in SDI Condemned

SK1812082288 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0808 GMT 18 Dec 88

["Criminal Move To Join U.S. Imperialists in 'Star Wars' Program"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—The South Korean fascist clique is active to participate in the "Strategic Defence Initiative" (SDI) of U.S. imperialism, according to the December 15 issue of the Japanese newspaper NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN.

The puppet science and technology agency decided to participate in seven of the research fields of the U.S. imperialists' "SDI" and is considering the exchange of "notes of understanding" with the U.S. Government next year.

This indicates that the puppets are unhesitatingly taking a dangerous road of driving South Korea deeper into a pitfall of nuclear war, obedient to the instructions of the U.S. imperialist master to increase the share of expenses for the presence of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea and join in the "Star Wars" program.

Paper on U.S. Stand on Status of Forces

SK1912045788 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0444 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a commentary denouncing the U.S. forces command occupying South Korea for distributing of late to the South Korean press "materials" to justify the "Status of Forces Agreement" which guarantees their extraterritorial status.

Complaining that the South Korean people have "mis-understanding" of the "Status of Forces Agreement", the U.S. imperialists in the so-called "materials" claimed that it is natural for the U.S. troops to "be granted privileges" because they are present for the purpose of "defence" at the "request of the local authorities."

This once again revealed the utter shamelessness of the arrogant aggression forces, the news analyst says, and goes on:

Where did the robber who broke into other's house get the face to wag his tongue about "request" and "defence"?

The content of the "Status of Forces Agreement" itself tells that it is a general "agreement" which can be signed only between imperialist aggressors and colonial puppets.

In face of the growing voices of protest of the people demanding the abolition of the "Status of Forces Agreement", the U.S. imperialists are trying to cheat the

people with a gesture of having "talks" with the puppets over the "agreement" and continue with their policy of occupation while maintaining their privileged position.

If the U.S. imperialists try to continuously have things their way in South Korea by brandishing the "Status of Forces Agreement", it is a gross mistake.

The U.S. imperialists would be well advised to withdraw from South Korea of their own accord before being kicked out by the angry people.

Daily Assesses South Army Leaders Meeting

SK1712044288 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0433 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 17 (KCNA)—A "meeting of leading commanders of the Armed Forces" of South Korea held on December 14 with the participation of the brasshats of the puppet military groundlessly charged the North with "buildup of offensive military strength" and "provocation" and raved that the puppet Army would concentrate all efforts on "establishment of the posture for security" next year.

The puppet ground force held a "year-end meeting of leading commanders" on December 15 and issued a detailed "main policy for next year."

This merits attention because it means that the South Korean puppets will continue with the line of war against the North next year in collusion with the U.S. imperialist aggressors under the pretext of the fictitious [word indistinct] from the North," stress NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today.

The news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says:

The puppets advertise as if somebody else "built up offensive military strength" and maintained a "position for provocation." It is the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets themselves, however, that seek attack and provocation against the other side.

The U.S. imperialists have recently enlarged the military airfields and built new ones in different parts of South Korea and are turning the Cheju Island into a nuclear base. The chief of the puppet military cried for "establishment of combat power superior to the North" through "continuous arms buildup."

The South Korean rulers talked on the U.N. rostrum as if they were ready to discuss disarmament and other military affairs with the North, but their acts do not agree with what they said.

What they seek is just the same as ever—North-South confrontation.

The news analyst of MINJU CHOSON brands the "attack" and "provocation" clamoured about by the puppets at the "meeting of leading commanders" as a sophism to instill the consciousness of confrontation into people and justify their line of war and confrontation.

North Wrestler Beats South Rival in Asian Contest
SK1812081688 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0806 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—Korean boys carried off 4 gold medals and 2 silver medals at the fifth Asian free-style wrestling championships held in Islamabad.

Yi Hak-son edged the South Korean rival and Kim Yong-sik the Japanese rival for gold medals in the 48 kg category on December 15.

Pang Hong-il picked up a gold in the 52 kg and Yi Won-il in the 62 kg division on December 16.

Kim Hak-yong snatched a silver medal in the 68 kg and Yu Sang-man in the 82 kg category.

South Press Group Demands Probe of Irregularities
SK1712103388 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1028 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 17 (KCNA)—The council of pressmen dismissed in 1980 in South Korea on December 9 had an extraordinary meeting in Seoul and strongly demanded that the No Tae-u fascist clique immediately probe the truth of the suppression of the press and the "irregularities of the Fifth Republic" in the days of the Chon Tu-hwan military dictatorship and formally apologize to all the pressmen, according to a report.

The council also demanded an immediate reinstatement of the pressmen unreasonably expelled from the press circles and compensation to them.

200 South Students Attack DJP Offices
SK1812083088 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0811 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—Some 200 students of Chonnam University in Kwangju attacked the South Cholla provincial branch office of the "Democratic Justice Party," shouting "arrest Chon Tu-hwan" on December 16, according to a report.

Windows were smashed and furniture destroyed.

"DJP" gangsters, taken aback by their attack, ran out of the office building and assaulted a cameraman of "Radio Kwangju Munhwa" who was covering the struggle of the students.

Almost at the same time the Kangdong District, Seoul, office of the "DJP" was attacked by students.

The students' continued attack on "DJP" offices shows how fierce the wrath and hatred of students and people is for the No Tae-u and Chon Tu-hwan clique, the masterminds of the Kwangju massacre and traitors to the nation.

South Press Union Alleges Cover Up of Schemes
SK1812083588 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0814 GMT 18 Dec 88

["Schemes To Cover Up Suppression of Press Condemned"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—The "National Federation of Pressmen's Trade Unions" condemned the base scheme of the puppet clique and the publishers to cover up their crimes in suppressing the press, according to a report.

The federation in a statement headlined "Is Press Again Entering a Period of Darkness?" denounced the publishers of four newspapers for their "testimonies" full of excuses and lies at a "hearing" of the puppet National Assembly on the suppression of the press and demanded that they apologize to the people for this and make clear the truth.

The statement demanded that the puppet clique immediately open to the public the list of the dismissed pressmen and all materials concerning the irregularities of the press. The statement accused "national assemblymen" of meanness, saying: "The interrogation by the national assemblyman who flattered the owners of publishing houses tied up with political power is another form of fusion between power and the press".

South's Increase in Police Spending Condemned
SK1812084088 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0817 GMT 18 Dec 88

["No Tae-u Clique's Scheme To Intensify Suppression.—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—The South Korean fascist clique set the police spendings for next year at 1,050,000 billion won, or a 13 percent jump above this year, according to a report.

The yearly expenditure for "public peace" going beyond the 1,000 billion won mark is the biggest amount never seen under any preceding puppets' rule [sentence as received]. This discloses the true color and criminal design of the No Tae-u military fascist clique. They have decided to increase the police force by more than 3,600 men at 1,180 police booths in six cities including Seoul, Pusan and Taegu and sharply boost the number of the detectives of the anti-communist sections next year. They are also planning to set up two new police stations and 30 odd new police booths for a harsher crackdown on the people.

The fascist clique have worked out a "five-year plan" for the buildup of repressive forces ending 1993, which envisages the increase of the police investigators by 3,100 men and formation of mobile patrol teams on detectives which will be put on patrol duty round the clock.

Dismayed at the struggle of the people for independence, democracy and national reunification, the fascist clique are working overtime for harsher repression, threatening that they will "stringently deal with" the struggle of the people.

Seoul Rally Protests Election 'Fraud'

SK1912044588 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0440 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—Students of the Seoul District Federation of General Student Councils and citizens belonging to the headquarters of the people's movement for democracy, more than 1,000 in all, held a rally at the "Kuro District Office" on December 17 to denounce the December 16 election fraud on the occasion of the first anniversary of the sit-in staged in protest against the "presidential election" rigging of the traitor No Tae-u, according to a radio report from Seoul.

At the rally they strongly demanded a probe into the truth behind the case in which the traitor No Tae-u whisked off in secrecy a ballot box containing forged ballots from the puppet Kuro District, Seoul, office to rig up his "victory" in the "presidential election" held on December 16 last year and punishment of its culprits.

A resolution was adopted at the rally.

It declared that "an active struggle will be waged to eradicate the legacies of the 'Fifth Republic' and force the present 'regime' to resign."

The resolution also demanded an immediate recall of Wickham, former commander of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces occupying South Korea, and Gleysteen, former U.S. ambassador to South Korea, who manipulated the Kwangju massacre.

At the end of the rally, the attendants staged a street demonstration, shouting such slogans as "Punish the chief culprits of the Kwangju incident" and "Present 'regime' must resign."

'Dissidents' Stage Sit-in in Seoul 17 December

SK1912102688 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1015 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—Those sought by police for political reasons and dissidents, more than 30 in all, started a sit-in at the office of the "National Council of the Movement for Nation and Democracy" in Seoul on December 17 in demand of the total release of the prisoners of conscience and stop to police search for those on the want list, according to a report.

They also demanded an immediate arrest of the traitor Chon Tu-hwan, the mastermind of the Kwangju massacre and chief culprit of the scandals of the "Fifth Republic," and his wife.

In a statement that day they denounced the No Tae-u group for refusing to accept the just demand of the people for the total release of the prisoners of conscience, stop to police search for those on the want list and the arrest and punishment of the Chon couple.

CPRF Condemns No Remarks on North Threat

SK1712043088 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0420 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 17 (KCNA)—The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in its Information No. 519 Friday condemns the South Korean puppet clique for spreading these days rumors about "threat from the North" and blaring that they would strengthen the South Korea-U.S. "security system."

The information recalls that the traitor No Tae-u at a "graduation ceremony of the defence academy" drivelled about "strategy of reunification by communizing South Korea by force" and "violent revolution" of the "forces seeking to overthrow liberal democracy" and cried that the South Korea-U.S. "security system" must be strengthened for "security."

This, the information says, is a shameless insult to our earnest efforts for peace on the Korean peninsula and an open challenge to the South Korean democratic forces fighting for independence, democracy and national reunification.

The information continues:

These utterances of the South Korean authority show that he is interested in confrontation, not in unity between the North and the South and has no intention to have dialogue in confidence with us.

That he cried over "reunification by communization" as he did in the past is a foolish artifice to divert elsewhere the complains of the South Korean people against him and a trite practice to keep the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea and maintain his rule under their patronage.

The spread of the foolish rumor about "threat from the North" can never justify such treacherous act as leaving the destiny of the nation to the mercy of outside forces.

Han Tok-su Expresses Condolence at Soviet Embassy
SK1712042888 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo December 15 (KNS-KCNA)—Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), visited the Soviet Embassy in Japan on December 9 to express condolences on the heavy losses in human lives caused by a strong earthquake in some parts of Armenia, the USSR.

WPK Sends Message to Peruvian Party
SK1612133588 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Pyongyang December 16 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent a message of greetings Thursday to the 16th congress of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance of Peru.

Your alliance has waged a persistent struggle to achieve national unity and prosperity and defend the sovereignty of the country in the past, the message said, and noted: We express the belief that the congress will make a great contribution to the work of further consolidating and developing the alliance and achieving the independent development of the country.

Expressing the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation forged between our two parties will grow stronger and develop in the future, we sincerely wish your congress great success in its work, it said.

Article on Defending Against Capitalism
SK1512140088 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2116 GMT 8 Dec 88

[NODONG SINMUN 9 December special article: "The Life Our People Enjoy is a Happy and Rewarding Socialist Life"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, in his historic work "Let Us Accomplish the Cause of Socialism and Communism Under the Revolutionary Banner of Chuche," summed up the brilliant 40-year history of the Republic and explained that the life our people enjoy in the bosom of the Republic is a happy and rewarding socialist life.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The life our people enjoy is the true socialist life free from all social evils, and is a happy, rewarding life which would be unthinkable in the rotten and morbid capitalist society where money rules over everything and where people seek only their personal comfort and pleasure.

So that a person's life to be a happy and rewarding one, it must be a life that thoroughly realizes a person's natural demand. The life our people enjoy is a happy and rewarding socialist life because this life truly embodies

the natural demand of the social human being. Man is the master of the world and of his destiny, and his natural demand is to live independently. If a person cannot live as master of the world and of his destiny, he loses his dignity as a person and is forced into a slavish life of submission.

For a person to live a happy and rewarding life with human dignity and value, he must, above all, lead a life performing the role of the master with the authority of the master of sociopolitical life. When a person exercises rights and authority in sociopolitical life, he can lead a true life with the dignity of humanity. Independent rights are the foremost life of the popular masses. If the popular masses lack independent rights and cannot exercise them, they cannot lead happy and rewarding lives. The independent rights of the popular masses are guaranteed only under the socialist system. The socialist system ensures that the working popular masses share the position of master of the state and society and fulfill their role as master.

Our Republic is the most superior socialist system that practically guarantees political freedom and rights for the people. The progressiveness of a socialist system is intensively expressed by the extent to which it guarantees political freedom and rights so that the working popular masses can realize chajusong. This is because sociopolitical life is the decisive aspect of a person's social life and because a person's chajusong should be guaranteed socially and politically before anything else.

If a person, staying alive, is forsaken socially and cannot exercise his political freedom and rights, he is as good as dead as a social human being. Under the capitalist system, humanity cannot lead independent lives no matter how many goods are produced, because the working popular masses cannot enjoy political freedom and rights. The capitalists desperately suppress enhancing the political position and role of the working popular masses because this will endanger their political ruling power.

Under the socialist system, the popular masses have political freedom and rights because they have sovereignty in their own hands. Our people, who, having lost their country, lived under subjugation and deprived of their rights in the past, now enjoy the most dignified and rewarding lives in the bosom of the Republic with political freedom and rights in all fields of sociopolitical life. Everyone fully exercises his independent rights in the political activities of the state as master of politics.

In our country, no one is excluded from sociopolitical life. Everyone directly participates in sovereignty organs and political affairs at home and abroad and adds luster to his political life by participating in the party and working people's organizations and other social organizations.

For human beings to lead happy and rewarding lives, they should also be united with each other as equal masters of society and live and develop themselves with

everlasting sociopolitical life. Living with everlasting sociopolitical life and forming human relations of helping and encouraging one another among humanity is a life worthy of the nature of the social human being.

Man, who is a social being, can live like man not in isolation but in a group. Separation from the group means separation from the mother's body of true life, and this means losing the life of a social being. For humanity, there is no greater unhappiness and misfortune than separation from the group and living alone. A person becomes aware of the unity of the blood ties of the group and himself when he closely combines the destiny of the group and that of himself and finds the root of his life in the everlasting group. He feels endless pride and the rewards of a life as master of the world and of his destiny. The essence of revolutionary fidelity lies in regarding the group as the mother's body of his life, subordinating his interests to those of the group based on his love of the group, and regarding devoting his life unhesitatingly to the group as his proper duty. In addition, the essence of comradely love lies in firmly uniting for the interests of the group and in helping and encouraging each other.

The higher the position humanity rises to as master of society, the more firmly society is united in revolutionary fidelity and comradely love and is turned into one firm living body sharing the same destiny, thereby enabling man to lead a happy and rewarding life with everlasting life. Human relations, in which people are united as one sociopolitical living body and help and encourage each other with sociopolitical life, are comprehensively established under the socialist system, because under the socialist system, the leader, the party, and the masses are combined into one life to form the sociopolitical living body.

Since individual selfishness is the basic way of social life under the capitalist system, it is impossible to realize the demand to live an independent and creative life, forming one sociopolitical life and sharing life, death, joy, and sorrow. The natural demand of the human being to help and encourage each other with everlasting sociopolitical life can be brilliantly realized only under the socialist system. In our Republic, the working people are firmly united politically and ideologically because of their common social position and common objective and interests, and they live according to the collectivist principle of one for all and all for one. Therefore, all the people are united as one sociopolitical living body, and the comradely relations of people loving and helping each other prevail in the whole society.

The center of the sociopolitical living body united in revolutionary fidelity and comradely love is the leader of the people. The popular masses can lead the happiest and most rewarding lives only when they are firmly united around the leader in revolutionary fidelity and comradely love. In our country, because all the people are united around the party and the leader as one destiny

and form one sociopolitical living body, the relations of comradely fidelity and love of helping and loving each other are formed among them.

The people, receiving from the leader the collectivist outlook on life and learning the leader's consideration and benevolence, cherish loyalty to the leader as their most important role in life and come to have the noble spirit of highly regarding the group and loving their comrades. This is firm proof that the lives our people enjoy are combined into one destiny to form the indestructible sociopolitical living body and that they are the rewarding socialist lives that comprehensively effloresce the comradely relations based on the collectivist outlook on life.

For a person to lead a happy and rewarding life, he should also become the master of material life. Man's happy and rewarding life is ensured by affluent material life. To relieve himself of the binding of nature and enjoy affluent material life is one of the natural demands of man. Affluent material life should be ensured so that man can better participate in sociopolitical life and enjoy a happy life. Even if the political condition is afforded for participation in the state's social life, unless the material condition to practically ensure it is realized is present, an independent and creative life cannot be realized. The true life of the people can be ensured when all the wealth created in society is owned by the people and the social condition is provided whereby such wealth is turned to use for the promotion of their well-being.

Our people are enjoying the equality and happy life with material conditions and social benefits ensured by the state.

Making all the people live equally well and constantly enhancing their material life are the supreme principle for the nation's activities. The rich material life in our country is being ensured by the Republic's government.

In our country, the state provides the people with material conditions for clothes, food, and shelter. The state is implementing the free compulsory education system and free medical treatment system.

Thanks to such policies by the state, all workers work with stable occupations suitable for their ability and are enjoying the genuine material life equally as master of nature without worrying about clothes, food, or shelter and without concern for education or medical care.

Production and construction develop and social wealth increases in our country where the results of labor are totally directed to promoting the workers' welfare. Thus, their rights in their material life are further expanded. Herein lies one of the bases to make our people's material life a happy and rewarding socialist life.

In order for a person to enjoy a happy and rewarding life, he should become the master of spiritual and cultural life. People demand not only to live as the masters of

social, political, and material life but also to develop themselves politically and spiritually. This is one of the essential demands of a social human being.

Only when a person develops spiritually and culturally can he have a lofty ideological and cultural quality and can he successfully implement the issue of becoming the master of social, political, and material life.

No matter how rich the material life may be, if one fails to fully enjoy the spiritual and cultural life, one cannot lead a genuine life as a social human being.

Today the capitalist society appears prosperous outwardly, but it is becoming corrupt because the people's spiritual and cultural life is becoming more destitute each day. In capitalist countries where anti-popular ideologies and corrupt bourgeois lifestyles are rampant, various reactionary ideologies and superstitions are as widespread as a narcotic and paralyze the sound mind of the people and make the people's consciousness dim. Thus, social evils including immorality, corruption, murder, and burglary are rampant, and the people are shrouded in fear and anxiety.

This is the inevitable result of the capitalist system. Even though material wealth may increase in the capitalist society, one cannot avoid poverty in the spiritual and cultural life in this society, in addition to the deformity of material life.

The society in which the spiritual and cultural life of the popular masses can be realized and can develop in a sound manner is the only socialist society. Our country ensures various conditions so that the people can have the lofty ideological and cultural level to become the masters of society and fulfill the role of the masters by holding the position of the masters.

As a result, all the people are freely enjoying the rich cultural and emotional life with sound ideas and awareness and fully developing their creative ability and talents.

Indeed, the socialist system in our country, which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song established and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il glorifies, is a genuine church-oriented socialist system that ensures a happy and rewarding life for the people.

It is a sacred duty of all party members and workers to further strengthen and develop our Republic along the path elucidated by the great leader in his historic and immortal work "Let Us Accomplish the Cause of Socialism and Communism Under the Revolutionary Banner of Chuche."

Accelerating the victory in the church revolutionary cause and expediting the happier and more rewarding life can be firmly ensured by strengthening the might of the Republic.

VNS Urges 'Liquidation' of Irregularities
SK1612000688 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 6 Dec 88

["Special article" by VNS Editorial Bureau: "Let Us Liquidate the Fifth Republic Irregularities by Overthrowing the No Tae-u Military Regime"—read by announcer]

[Text] Today the blaze of struggle to liquidate the Fifth Republic irregularities is spreading like wildfire on this land.

The struggle to liquidate the Fifth Republic irregularities, to probe the Kwangju massacre and the truth of the Fifth Republic irregularities, to punish the ringleaders, and to pioneer the path of democratic politics is being further enhanced with the so-called statement of apology by traitor Chon Tu-hwan and the special statement by traitor No Tae-u as an occasion.

The spearhead of struggle is being gradually directed to the No Tae-u military dictatorial group and the United States, its protecting force. Outcries of "Arrest and punish the Chon Tu-hwan couple!" "The No Tae-u regime must step down!" and "Let us expel the Yankees!" are fiercely resounding from many places of the country, including Seoul, Kwangju, Pusan, and Andong. The struggle became more active amid such outcries, bearing a more mass nature.

Several thousand and hundreds of thousands of the masses from all walks of life, including passionate youths and students who are justly courageous and who do not compromise unjustness, as well as citizens, opposition figures, professors, and religious figures have joined in this just struggle.

The mass struggle by the passionate youths and students and patriotic masses from all walks of life to punish the ringleaders of the Kwangju massacre and the Fifth Republic irregularities is an eruption of accumulated grudges and indignation against great crimes and sins of the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u fascist group and is an expression of the resolute and indomitable will to open a new chapter for democratic politics by sternly punishing their serious crimes in the name of the nation and the masses, absolutely not tolerating them.

The malicious Kwangju massacre and the Fifth Republic irregularities are not events which can be covered up by a few words of apology. The unprecedented incident of massacring the fellow countrymen and immersing the land of Kwangju in a sea of blood by killing several thousand peaceful citizens who shouted for freedom, democracy, and reunification with empty hands and the incident of ultragreat irregularities and corruption committed under the protection of the government power, shocking the world, are the great crimes which can never be tolerated.

Therefore, unless the truth of the Kwangju massacre and the Fifth Republic irregularities is probed and unless the ringleaders are punished, the incidents cannot be smoothly resolved nor can one think of genuine democratic development and true social justice.

This is why our masses demanded a probe of the Kwangju massacre and the Fifth Republic irregularities and the arrest and punishment of the ringleader Chon Tu-hwan to liquidate the leftovers of the military rule and to realize the democratic politics. Our masses branded Chon Tu-hwan's so-called apology and explanation as a deceitful drama to deceive and ridicule the people, and persistently opposed them.

Nevertheless, the traitor No Tae-u, infringing upon our masses' demand, had Chon Tu-hwan announce a statement of apology to conceal the true aspects of the Kwangju massacre and the Fifth Republic irregularities and to evade responsibility. In a so-called special statement of the President, No Tae-u said that because the issues of Kwangju incident and the Fifth Republic irregularities are resolved, judicial steps against the political activities of the former president can be construed to be political retaliation and that he should be pardoned.

Thus, traitor No Tae-u openly exposed his true intention to permanently conceal the crimes and sins of the Fifth Republic behind the black curtain and to evade the people's judgment. The act of exempting traitor Chon Tu-hwan from the crime—a peerless murderer and the ringleader of irregularities and corruption who committed indelible and intolerable great crimes against the nation, the people and the masses—is an insult against the patriots in Kwangju and the nameless patriots of this country who fell while shouting for freedom, democracy, and reunification and ridicules social justice.

Traitor No Tae-u revealed that he himself is the accomplice of the Kwangju massacre and the Fifth Republic irregularities and that the Sixth Republic is a replica of the Fifth Republic built on blood and bodies of the masses. And that it is a group of the main force and remnants of the Fifth Republic irregularities by issuing a special statement calling for pardon of Chon Tu-hwan while secretly and openly hindering the probe of the truth and while stating that there cannot be any sanctuary in liquidating the Fifth Republic irregularities in order to rescue Chon Tu-hwan, the target of the people's grudge.

All facts show that as long as No Tae-u and his military ruling system remain, the leftovers of the Fifth Republic cannot be liquidated nor can genuine democratic politics be realized.

Thus, it is quite natural that the youths, students, and the masses from all walks of life are fighting by taking the issue of expelling the No Tae-u group, the main force of the Fifth Republic, as an important goal for the struggle to liquidate the leftovers of the Fifth Republic.

The people's struggle to liquidate the leftovers of the Fifth Republic is being waged more fiercely, and the spearhead of such struggle is being directed at No Tae-u himself. Frightened by this, traitor No Tae-u repressed the struggle of the students and the masses from all walks of life from the source by mobilizing the repressive forces on the one hand, and, on the other, is attempting to settle the perilous political situation by appeasing the people through a so-called second 29 June pledge for reform of the state administration and the party policies, including the release and reinstatement of detainees and the recovery of honor of and compensation for the victims of the Kwangju incident.

At the same time, traitor No Tae-u is attempting to drag the opposition parties into a snare of compromise by perpetrating political bargaining with them and is attempting to hush up the issue of liquidating the leftovers of the Fifth Republic.

Some opposition politicians are being dragged into such a cunning, deceitful, and tempting trick by the traitor No Tae-u while adhering to only their own prosperity and party interest and strategy. Under such circumstances, youths, students, and the masses from all walks of life should wage the struggle more vigorously by upholding the slogan of overthrowing the No Tae-u military rule.

The path of probing the crimes of the Fifth Republic and punishing the ringleaders and the way to democratic politics lies in overthrowing the No Tae-u military rule. Rejecting the ruling circle's repressive maneuvers and deceitful tricks of appeasement, the patriotic masses from all walks of life should bring traitor No Tae-u to the trial by history, together with traitor Chon Tu-hwan, and should punish them. Thus, they should courageously wage the just struggle to eradicate the sixth military republic which is merely a replica of the Fifth Republic.

The struggle to arrest and punish traitor Chon Tu-hwan is a breakthrough for the struggle to overthrow traitor No Tae-u, one of the twin murderers and the ringleader of irregularities and corruption, and to eradicate the No Tae-u military republic. The arrest and punishment of traitor Chon Tu-hwan are the mission of history and the unanimous demand of the masses.

The patriotic masses from all walks of life should wage a persistent struggle to crush No Tae-u's wicked intention to rescue traitor Chon Tu-hwan, a sworn enemy of the masses, by granting political amnesty under the pretext of his apology; to bring Chon Tu-hwan to the trial by history; and to sternly punish him in the name of the nation.

The struggle to liquidate the Fifth Republic irregularities and realize democratic politics by eradicating the No Tae-u military rule can bear fruit only amid a powerful anti-U.S. struggle.

The U.S. colonial rule is the very source of various evil politics, irregularities, and corruption on this land. The midwife who produced the murderous, corrupt Fifth Republic and the Sixth Republic is none other than the United States; the one who ordered the massacre operation against the innocent citizens in Kwangju is none other than the United States; and the one who commanded the operation to rescue the No Tae-u military regime by concealing the crimes of the Fifth Republic is none other than the United States.

As long as the United States remains, no one can liquidate the leftovers of the Fifth Republic nor overthrow the No Tae-u military regime, the main force of the Fifth Republic. Therefore, our masses' struggle against military rule to liquidate the leftovers of the Fifth Republic should be linked with and developed into the anti-U.S. struggle.

It is quite natural that students and the masses from all walks of life are loudly raising anti-U.S. voices demanding the summons of Wickham and Gleysteen, who ordered the massacre in Kwangju, and the expulsion of the Yankees. All the patriotic masses should wage a more persistent struggle to expel the U.S. imperialist forces of aggression who are the behind-the-scenes manipulator of the Kwangju massacre and Fifth Republic irregularities and the protector of the No Tae-u military regime.

It goes without saying that the struggle to liquidate the leftovers of the Fifth Republic and realize genuine democratic politics by overthrowing the No Tae-u military regime can be victorious only when all the people join actively in this struggle.

No force in the world can block the united might of the people. At a solemn moment deciding between justice and injustice and between democracy and fascism, all the masses who love justice and democracy should join in the sacred struggle to overthrow the No Tae-u military regime and liquidate the leftovers of the Fifth Republic by transcending difference in ideology, ideas, interest, and party strategy and affiliation.

In particular, opposition politicians who claimed to be spokesmen of the popular will should look straight at what the popular will pursues and should examine themselves carefully. They should resolutely join the struggle of the masses to liquidate the leftovers of the Fifth Republic against the military rule.

Justice is the permanent victor. Our masses' struggle to liquidate the leftovers of the Fifth Republic and realize democratic politics by overthrowing the No Tae-u military regime is a just struggle. The victory of this struggle is certain.

The patriotic masses from all walks of life should resolutely rise and energetically wage the sacred struggle to the end to punish the five traitors in the Kwangju incident and

overthrow the No Tae-u military regime. Thus, let us build without fail a democratic, just society on this land free from fascism, irregularities, and corruption.

South Korea

Daily on Revising Status of Forces Agreement
SK1812070288 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
17 Dec 88 p 2

[Editorial: "The Focus on Revising the ROK-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement"]

[Text] The ROK-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA]—more specifically, the Agreement on the Facilities, District, and Status of the Army of the U.S.A. in the ROK pursuant to Article 4 of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the ROK and the U.S.A.—is likely to be revised for the first time since its birth 23 years ago. It is reported that the special meeting between the governments of the two countries for the revision of SOFA, which was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 16 December, is focusing on three main issues.

The first issue concerns the waiver of rights to holding criminal court trials. As we have noted in this column more than once, it is very unfair that the ROK has only very limited rights to a primary trial on crimes committed by American soldiers and American military components, that the U.S. Army side has the right to a primary court trial on crimes committed in the performance of official duty, and that in exercising the right to court trials the ROK side is required to consult with U.S. diplomatic envoys. Reference will have to be made to common practice and the English and American system of law, but consideration should also be given to the common practice of law enforcement in the ROK and the sentimental and psychological aspects of the Korean people.

For example, even when the crime is obvious to everyone, if the U.S. Army side exercises the right to a court trial, notifying the ROK side that the crime was committed in the performance of official duty, the ROK side cannot do anything about it. Under such circumstances, it is quite natural that the Korean people should resent this. In particular, we note in the course of treating the cases of violence frequently committed these days by American soldiers, military components, and their families that the superior treatment of American citizens and the Korean people's anti-U.S. sentiment are over-emphasized. This is undesirable, and to eliminate this phenomenon, it is urgently necessary to establish and operate a fair and just law.

Secondly, there is the problem that practical investigation by the ROK side on a U.S. Army suspect is extremely restricted. This is found in paragraph 5, Article 22 of the SOFA which says, "When the suspect is in the custody of the ROK, the ROK side shall deliver the suspect to the authorities of the Army of the U.S.A. if so

requested." We hear that in the case of Japan, the Japanese side can exercise the right to a court trial even on criminal negligence in an accidental homicide in the performance of duty.

Thirdly, there is the delicate problem of three labor rights. This is a problem which does not constitute a serious problem in countries other than the ROK. There is no serious difference of views between the ROK and the United States on this issue. We hope, however, that the general unfulfilled desire prevailing in workers in the ROK will not cause unnecessary friction between the ROK and the United States.

All these problems make it necessary that the current SOFA, which was signed in July 1966, be revised to accommodate the changes in the political, social, and economic relations between the ROK and the United States since its signing. The United States seems to be emphasizing that the U.S. Army is a special organization as an army and that it is in the ROK for the defense of the ROK. However, the Korean people want equal relations with the United States and the fair treatment of crimes committed by the U.S. Army with the same degree of emphasis.

We sincerely hope that both the ROK and the U.S. side will take care to prevent unnecessary friction in the relations between the two countries, which have entered a new phase. To this end, the United States should take care that the Korean people's sentiment is not hurt by not emphasizing too much the fact that the U.S. Army in the ROK is a special organization as an army and that its stationing in the ROK is for the sake of the ROK. At the same time, we think that the Korean people should not be too miserly in appreciating the value of the U.S. Army's presence in the ROK and its contribution to this country.

U.S. Sees 'No Need' for Revision
SK1712012088 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 17 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] The Status of Forces Agreement needs no overhaul at present, as it works well for both sides, a U.S. military spokesman said yesterday.

Koreans' criticism of the agreement stems from "misunderstanding," he said.

"No need to significantly change the agreement has been demonstrated," Col. H.T. Linke, spokesman for the U.S. army, said. "If needed, the SOFA can be 'fine-tuned' through the SOFA's existing joint committee mechanism."

The U.S. side believes the agreement works well for both Korea and the United States and makes an important contribution toward military readiness to deter external aggression, he said.

Linke said SOFA was modeled after and is "very similar" to agreements between the United States and NATO countries, Japan and the Philippines, where U.S. forces are stationed under mutual defense pacts.

"These SOFAs are similar with regard to articles defining the members of U.S. forces, facilities and areas, security measures, radio and television, criminal jurisdiction and functioning of the joint committee," he said.

The agreements differ not only in wording but in application, Linke said. For example, Korea exercises jurisdiction over U.S. forces personnel in slightly more cases than does West Germany.

A case of an actual wording difference is that under the Japan SOFA, U.S. forces members are exempt from highway tolls for their private cars, while in Korea they have to pay the tolls.

He said SOFA does not protect U.S. soldiers from Korean criminal proceedings. But he said the Korean government has stated it will exercise its right to prosecute only when a case is considered of particular importance to Korea.

"Maintenance of order and discipline by a visiting armed force is the primary responsibility of that force," he said.

"No one should think that those USFK [U.S. Forces in Korea] members whose cases are waived by the Korean government escape punishment if their guilt is established," Linke said. "That is most assuredly not so."

USFK authorities invoke appropriate disciplinary measures such as no judicial punishment or court-martial, which often impose more severe punishments than do Korean courts for similar offenses.

This arrangement eliminates the "large financial and administrative burden to Korea that prosecution of large numbers of U.S. soldiers from such minor offenses as unintentional traffic accidents, drunkenness, disorderly conduct and minor assaults would entail," he said. "The public can then focus on the really important cases."

The SOFA provides many other benefits to Korea, he said. Under its terms, more than 20,000 Korean civilians are employed, nearly 19,000 by USFK and more than another thousand by individual USFK members, with an annual payroll in excess of \$240 million. Viewed as a corporation, he said, USFK would rank as the sixth largest in Korea behind Hyundai, Samsung, Daewoo, Lucky and Hyosung. The SOFA also provides for USFK and U.S. forces members to purchase goods and services from Korean business and industries, including major construction projects, housing, joint use communications facilities, and a cross country pipeline.

In the past year, Linke said, the presence of U.S. forces has meant earning of over \$995 million for the Korea economy.

Survey on U.S. Presence, Relations With North
SK1812034088 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 18 Dec 88 p 2

[Text] Six out of 10 Seoul citizens think north Korea is superior to the south in military power and that U.S. troops need to remain in the country for at least five more years.

Seventy percent forecast improved ties between south and north Korea in the future but fewer are willing to believe reunification is possible in the next 10 years.

Liberal democracy was chosen as the ideal political system for the country after reunification. Some others want something between north Korean communism and liberal democracy, but nobody chose communism.

These are among the results of a recent poll conducted by Korea Gallup at the request of the national unification Board. Eight hundred randomly selected Seoul citizens aged 20 or over participated in the October poll.

According to it, 12.4 percent of the pollees believe there is a high possibility of reunification in 10 years.

The others said there is some possibility (28.6 percent), little possibility (22.3 percent) and no possibility (27.9 percent). The more educated the pollees were the more pessimistic they were about reunification.

Half of the pollees (49.1 percent) evaluated highly the government's efforts for reunification and another 34.6 percent had at least a positive view.

Those who said the government seems to exert "little" or "no" effort for reunification rated on'y 11 and 2.9 percent, respectively.

Concerning the prospects for south-north relations, 69.3 percent expected improvement, 21.3 percent forecast no change and 2.3 percent predicted deterioration.

Among the four major principles for reunification— independent reunification, peaceful reunification, reunification of national harmony and democratic reunification—most respondents gave priority to peaceful reunification and unification of national harmony.

Eighty-four percent evaluated positively the contribution of President No Tae-u's July 7 declaration but 47.4 percent were negative about prospects for a summit between No and his north Korean counterpart Kim Il-song.

They though the July 7 declaration contributes to the reunion of separated families (92.9 percent), freedom to travel between the two Koreas (91.9 percent), material exchanges (83.9 percent), cooperation with north Korea

in the international community (89.2 percent), and improvement of ties between the south and China and the Soviet Union and between the north and the United States and Japan (83.9 percent).

Over half of the pollees (54.5 percent) preferred liberal democracy as the ideal system for the country after reunification, while 41.4 percent wanted something between it and north Korean communism. No respondents selected communism.

Asked whether north Korea should be recognized as a state, 64.6 percent answered positively and 26.8 percent were negative.

Positive replies were more common among the younger and more educated pollees.

Fifty-six percent of the pollees supported exchanges in nonpolitical fields with north Korea preceding political negotiations.

Forty-one percent said U.S. troops need to remain in Korea for five to 10 years, another 22.3 percent saw a necessity for over 10 years.

But 18 percent of the respondents said U.S. troops should withdraw from the country in two or three years another 6.5 percent believed that they should leave right now.

Fifty-five percent of the pollees opposed the proposed talks between students of south and north Korea, while 38.1 percent supported them. But 90 percent of all the pollees said they object to inclusion of such political issues as withdrawal of U.S. troops in the agenda for the students' meeting.

Ninety-five percent favored exchanges with Communist countries and 87.4 percent believed that improved ties with them would positively contribute to reunification of the peninsula.

Paper Asked To Correct Report on Prime Minister
SK1712011088 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 17 Dec 88 p 2

[Text] The prime minister's office has asked the vernacular daily HANGYORE SINMUN to correct a report that Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun worked to promote the late President Pak Chong-hui's Yusin system when he was operating a research institute in the United States in the 1970s.

Office spokesman Yi Hyon-ku sent a letter to Song Kon-ho, publisher of the daily, Thursday, denying that the Research Institute on Korean Affairs founded by Kang in 1970 tried to influence public opinion in the United States on the Yusin system.

"The quarterly JOURNAL OF KOREAN AFFAIRS (published by the institute) never carried articles advocating the Yusin policies. Papers on it were mainly those critical of the Korean government at that time," Yi said in the letter.

"The quarterly carried many articles comparing foreign policies of south and north Korea, and some figures of the Korean community even protested that they would only promote the interests of Pyongyang," the letter said.

The spokesman also denied as "groundless" the allegation that the Korea Central Intelligence Agency [KCIA] provided funds for the institute, and considered it one of its lobbying organs in the United States.

Quoting a report of a subcommittee on international relations in the U.S. House of Representatives, the HANGYORE SINMUN reported that former KCIA chief Kim Hyong-uk gave testimony to that effect in the U.S. Congress.

"It has become evident that Kim, who turned traitor to the nation and fled to the United States, gave false testimony in order to defend himself," Yi said in the letter.

He called for the correction of the HANGYORE SINMUN report, saying it might trigger misunderstanding among the people.

A retired three-star general, Kang went to the United States in 1962 after serving a four-month jail sentence for his opposition to the military coup d'etat staged by Pak.

He studied international relations at universities in the United States, and operated the institute from 1970 until he returned home in 1976.

USSR's Arbatov Reportedly To Visit
SK1712070288 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean
0600 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Report by Tokyo correspondent Yi Min-hui]

[Text] Georgiy Arbatov, director of the United States of America and Canada Institute and diplomatic brain for CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev, appears to be visiting our country next month.

After disclosing this today, a source at the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Mr Arbatov's visit to Korea is related to Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to North Korea which is expected to take place toward the end of this month and that it is significant in that it will create an environment for the six-party talks, part of the efforts for easing tension on the Korean peninsula.

An official at the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that Mr Arbatov's visit to Korea is an object of attention because it will result in the first political

exchange between Korea and the Soviet Union along with PPO President Kim Tae-chung's visit to the Soviet Union, which is under preparation.

Since he was named a member of the CPSU Central Committee in 1981, Mr Arbatov has worked as a brain for Soviet U.S. policy in the four Soviet regimes ranging from Brezhnev to Andropov, Chernenko, and General Secretary Gorbachev.

To Visit 'Next January'
SK1712125788 Seoul YONHAP in English
1252 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—Georgiy Arbatov, director of the institute for U.S. and Canadian affairs and an advisor to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on external affairs, will visit South Korea next January, sources at the Japanese Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

The sources said Arbatov's scheduled visit to Seoul seemed to be aimed at creating a circumstance for the proposed six-country conference to discuss ways to ease tensions on the divided Korean peninsula.

The sources, however, did not elaborate on the possible six-nation conference.

Arbatov, who is a member of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, is regarded as key figure who has played an important role in the Soviet efforts to improve relations with South Korea, the sources said.

Arbatov invited opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, who heads the main opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), to visit the Soviet Union. Arbatov reportedly met with Rep. Cho Se-hyong, chairman of the PPD's international committee, when Cho visited Moscow in November to discuss procedures for the PPD president's travel in the Soviet Union.

Arbatov's visit will follow a visit to North Korea by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze late December, the sources said.

No Interviewed on Bloc, North-South Ties
SK1912023988 Seoul YONHAP in English
0224 GMT 19 Dec 88

[By Hong Sang-pyo]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Monday that he will do his best to realize the proposed South-North Korean summit meeting considering that summitry is a key to improved inter-Korean relations.

The president also said he would like to make the year 1989 the "beginning year" for the restoration of national identity by resolving issues facing the divided two Koreas through dialogues based on mutual cooperation.

No made the remarks in an exclusive interview with the YONHAP NEWS AGENCY commemorating the eighth anniversary of YONHAP's creation.

The president said he expected South Korea to establish diplomatic relations with most socialist countries "within his tenure."

"I expect South Korea will exchange trade missions with socialist countries, including China and the Soviet Union, and that exchanges in economy, academics, culture, tourism and personnel will be remarkably promoted in the days to come," the president said.

"The promotion of substantive relations with those countries will help enhance mutual interest and development and will surely be developed into normalization of relations between Seoul and the socialist countries," No said.

On inter-Korean relations, the chief executive said he will soon announce a new set of initiatives on reunification of the divided Korean peninsula, based on the recognition that South and North Korea should regard each other as partners in resolving inter-Korean issues, after collecting opinions on reunification from various groups.

No reiterated that the proposed six-nation consultative meeting for peace in Northeast Asia is a realistic way to change the current structure of confrontation in the region into that of stability, peace and cooperation. No made it clear that he would do his utmost to realize the conference.

"I think that North Korea, even though it might need a long time, will eventually approach such a realistic course," the president said.

No, in an address at the United Nations on Oct. 18, proposed that a six-nation conference for peace in Northeast Asia be held to discuss ways to maintain peace on the Korean peninsula. The six nations No referred to were South and North Korea, the United States, China, the Soviet Union and Japan.

He said that the year 1988 has been a period in which South Koreans opened a new era of democracy while creating national glory through the success of the Seoul Olympics.

As for domestic politics, the president hinted again that he would push for plans to form a coalition with the opposition on policies by saying, "It is natural for a political party (the ruling Democratic Justice Party), which believes in the free democratic system, to seek compromise or cooperation with the opposition on reasonable policies."

No, however, declined to refer directly to the controversial idea of "a grand coalition of conservative political forces" which is regarded by some as one way for the ruling party to take the initiative in state affairs.

As for the ongoing parliamentary investigations into irregularities during the government of his disgraced predecessor Chon Tu-hwan, No expressed his hope that the National Assembly's probes would be concluded by the end of this year.

But the president said the prosecution, without regard to the parliamentary investigations, will unilaterally investigate misdeeds perpetrated during the Chon era and take legal action whenever wrongdoing is proven.

No also reaffirmed his election pledge to hold an interim evaluation to determine whether the people are confident in his performance as president.

"I will surely keep my promise on the interim test in consideration that it should be a turning point for the acceleration of national development," No said. "But when and how to conduct the interim test has not been decided."

During the 1987 presidential campaign, No, then the ruling party candidate, vowed, that if elected, he would conduct such an interim test after the Seoul Olympic games. He also said that if he failed to win the vote of confidence, he would step down.

On economic issues, No said he expects some hardships in the nation's economy in 1989, while adding that South Korea could certainly turn the year into a decisive opportunity for becoming an advanced country by accomplishing growth amid stability in the economy.

Release of 257 'Political' Prisoners Expected
SK1712013488 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 17 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] The government will release 257 "political detainees" and restore their civil rights within this year, it was revealed yesterday.

Cho Sung-hyong, chairman of the human rights committee of the opposition PPD, said that he was informed of the government's leniency when he met with a senior prosecutor.

Quoting the senior officer at the Justice Ministry, Cho said that the government will also commute sentences for some 50 convicts and suspend police searches for all political fugitives.

The government is expected to announce the comprehensive leniency measures in a few days as promised by President No Tae-u in his special statement last month, he said.

Cho said the PPD has so far requested the government to release 368 political prisoners, including 19 persons who were imprisoned on charges of espionage activities.

He also said that negotiations between the PPD and the ministry are under way for further releases of prisoners.

PPD Satisfied Over Release

SK1712013888 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Dec 88 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "First Satisfaction"]

[Text] For the first time, the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy yesterday expressed its satisfaction over the government's plan to release political detainees and restore their civil rights.

Rep. Cho Sung-hyong, chairman of the PPD's human rights committee, reported on the government's leniency measures in a closed-door meeting of key party officers yesterday after meeting with a senior prosecutor of the Justice Ministry.

PPD executives generally expressed satisfaction over the scale of the government measure, party sources said.

Quoting the senior officer of the ministry, Rep. Cho said that the government will release 257 "political detainees," commute sentences for some 50 convicts, and suspend police searches for all political fugitives.

The comprehensive leniency measure which is expected to be officially announced in a few days had been promised by President No Tae-u in a special statement last month appealing for a "political pardon" for ex-president Chon Tu-hwan.

Among the three opposition groups, Kim Tae-chung's PPD has paid the keenest attention to the problem of prisoners of conscience and restoration of their civil rights.

Observers said that the government might have negotiated in advance with the PPD over the number of detainees to be released in order to calm possible repercussions from the largest opposition party.

Release Expected 21 December

SK1912090388 Seoul YONHAP in English
0836 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun said Monday that the government will release "political detainees" on Wednesday.

The cabinet will approve the release in a meeting Tuesday, he added.

His remarks came when he visited Kim Chong-pil, president of the No. three opposition New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP), at the NDRP headquarters.

The government recently announced that it will release 257 political prisoners and suspend police searches for political fugitives by the end of this year.

Kang, whose designation as prime minister was approved by parliament last week, also said that the government will adhere to strict law enforcement, adding that public security currently faces great danger.

Kim, in response to Kang's remarks, said that securing law and order is a matter of great urgency.

Japan's Decision on DPRK Soldier Welcomed

SK1712003488 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] The Japanese government yesterday announced that it was allowing North Korean army staff sergeant Min Hong-ku to live in Japan as a free man, ending five years of controversy involving Seoul, Pyongyang and Tokyo over the fate of the defector, the Foreign Ministry here said.

The Japanese announcement was made by Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi at 4 p.m. The Tokyo government had notified Seoul of its decision Thursday, ministry officials said.

A ROK Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the government, which has made strenuous efforts to ensure Sgt. Min of a normal life at a place of his choice since he arrived in Japan, welcomes the Tokyo government decision, though it was belated.

Earlier on Tuesday, Dec. 13, a member of the Korean Embassy in Tokyo ascertained it was Sgt. Min's free decision to live in Japan through an interview.

The North Korean army sergeant, now aged 25, smuggled himself onto the Japanese freighter No. 18 Fujisan-maru at Nampo Port and arrived at Fukuoka, Japan, on Nov. 4, 1983. Japanese authorities allowed him to land and the soldier sought political asylum.

In an apparent move to get the return of Sgt. Min, North Korea detained the No. 18 Fujisan-maru and its five crew members on charges of espionage activities as the freighter called at Nampo the following day. Three crew members were released on Feb. 7, 1984.

Meanwhile, the Japanese Justice Ministry issued a departure order for the defector and kept him at an illegal entrants camp in Yokohama near Tokyo.

Sgt. Min filed a petition to the Korean ambassador in Tokyo expressing his desire to go to the Republic of Korea in October, 1985.

Japanese authorities released Sgt. Min "on parole" on Nov. 2, 1987, and a North Korean court soon sentenced the skipper and chief engineer of the No. 18 Fujisan-maru to 10 years hard labor.

*** Paper Reveals Policymakers on North**
41070027 Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean
9 Oct 88 pp 32-34

[Article by Yi Tong-han: "Secret Envoys Pak Chol-on and Kim Pok-tong and Private Sector Envoy Yi Han-pin"]

[Text] At the beginning of the Sixth Republic, experts in policy-making have moved to the forefront

A high-ranking government official, whose name is known to almost everyone as the major player in the Sixth Republic's North policy, privately made an important statement concerning this policy. He said, "President No secretly promoted the North policy long before he became president, and he may reveal the background of the policy in 1 or 2 years." He also revealed that President No had planned the "7 July announcement," which even sent stock prices up, when he was state minister working with a special research team on this project. This team, made up of ministers and bureau chiefs of the concerned ministries, first collected each ministry's proposals, prepared by the working-level staffs, and presented the comprehensive reports directly to President No. He emphasized that President No was committed to the North policy as a "solution to the national problem" and for the "future of the nation."

This official then added, "President No is the only person who knows the full story of the North policy. The team members, including myself, who are witnesses to history, are recording every detail of it for coming generations."

The gist of these statements indicates that President No himself is the main player in the North policy. He has been working on this issue since his days as state minister, chairman of the Seoul Olympics Committee, minister of home affairs, and chairman of the DJP.

President No's North policy has been in evidence since the beginning of the Sixth Republic. The government has released policy statements on North Korea and the communist bloc whenever possible, and this policy has become one of the major issues in foreign affairs. It is believed that President No's "7 July special announcement concerning the desire for national unity and prosperity through reunification" was a comprehensive proposal revealing the government's fundamental position on the North policy. There were two important points in this announcement. The first point is that our North policy was transformed from a passive security-oriented policy, mainly aimed at improvement of relations with North Korea's allies to prevent the breakout of war to a more aggressive policy which would enable us to contribute to world peace by accomplishing the reunification of our homeland. The other point is the extension of diplomatic moves in the countries which are targets of our policy. The North policy now includes not only the PRC, the Soviet Union, and other East European countries, but also North Korea. It is hoped that both North Korean policy and policy aimed at the communist bloc

will advance in a complementary manner. It is known that many people are involved with the North policy. It is said that President No, immediately after his inauguration, ordered a gathering of experts to discuss the diplomatic moves toward the North, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with countries with which Korea did not have diplomatic relations. Let us look at each one of these experts.

The most prominent one is Yi Hong-ku, national unification board minister, who is in charge of reunification policy. Minister Yi has served in this capacity since the beginning of the Sixth Republic, and is deeply involved not only with reunification policy toward North Korea but also with policy toward the Communist bloc in general.

Minister Yi received his PhD degree from Yale University in America and has been teaching in the Political Science Department of Seoul National University since 1969. He has established himself as the most prominent scholar in the field of Korean political science. His major field is political thought, and he has offered classes mainly on Western political ideas, including those of Plato, Hegel, Marx, etc. He has particularly distinguished himself in research on the Communist bloc, and has written a book, "One Hundred Years of Marxism." He also served once as the chairman of the Korean Association for the Communist Bloc Studies.

Minister Yi started working for President No in 1982, when he was selected as a representative to the North-South talks proposed by South Korea. The talks ended prematurely. On this occasion, Minister Yi's outstanding political theories, his participation in the North-South talks, and his international perspective made a good impression on President No, who was, even then, planning the North policy in his mind. Through this relationship, Yi was later appointed minister of the national unification board.

Minister Yi's role in the North policy is very important. It is known that he has formulated the framework of the policy, although he is not involved with the details. It is also known that it was Minister Yi who decided on the main directions of policy toward North Korea, including the bold decision to abandon the isolation of North Korea policy.

After his accession to office, Yi repeatedly made his position clear, saying, "Professors or government officials tend to look to the past in formulating their attitude toward reunification, clinging to such incidents as the tragedy of 25 June and the division of the country. We have to reexamine North-South problems, however, from a future-oriented perspective." His idea is in accordance with the changes in the Sixth Republic's perceptions of North Korea—from enemy to a member of one national unit.

**Gathering Consensus for the Reunification Debate;
Preparing Announcement of "Results"**

The aggressive propagation of the government's reunification policy is another one of Yi's important tasks. This attitude originated from the observation that previous governments had neglected public opinion in the policy-making process of the reunification issue. In addition, President No's governing style also has something to do with it. Minister Yi participated aggressively in many debates concerning the reunification issue and was successful in winning public understanding for the government's policy of "openly debating the reunification issue and building a consensus."

Yi is very busy these days. He is preparing the "results" [of public opinion polls] which will be included in President No's speech to the National Assembly after the Olympics. It is known that these "results" include very important items related to policy toward North Korea, and that Yi is rejecting all interviews with the media in order to complete this task.

One person in the Sixth Republic who is in charge of practical matters concerning the North policy is the president's assistant for policy, Pak Chol-on. Even though he was in the media spotlight with the 13 September announcement of the exchange of permanent representative offices between Korea and Hungary, he has been involved with the North policy since the early 1980's. Born in Taegu, Pak attended Kyongbuk High School and graduated as the top student from Seoul National University Law School. He participated in the "reform" plan at the beginning of the Fifth Republic, and was a prosecutor at the time. Afterward he assisted President No behind the scenes, working at the Blue House and the National Security Planning Agency.

It is known that Pak—the "top secret envoy"—has visited Pyongyang, the People's Republic of China, and the Eastern European Communist countries many times. The government officially has repudiated the rumors about his visit to China and the Soviet Union, and his secret contacts with North Korea. Previous rumors, however, were borne out when his role as secret envoy to Hungary was made public. The staff who worked with Pak was composed of people dispatched from government offices to work in the president's policy affairs office. Among this group, Yom Ton-chae (from the National Security Planning Agency) is in charge of Communist bloc issues. Kang Kun-taek (from the Foreign Affairs Ministry) is in charge of North-South relations. In addition, Pak Won-chul (from the Office of Legal Matters), and Yi Chong-paek (the incumbent chief prosecutor) are doing research and policy planning. It is known that, under these people, 20-30 working-level people are employed.

It is well known that the improvement of relations with the East European bloc originated with a desire for commercial trade. Even though there are many business

groups who promote exchange with the communist bloc, the leading role is played by KOTRA (Korea Trade Promotion Corporation).

The agreement on the establishment of a permanent representative office was initiated by the agreement on the establishment of trade offices in Hungary when Pak Yong-su, KOTRA president at the time, and working staff visited Hungary in August 1987.

The government decisively reorganized KOTRA last July to put more emphasis on its pioneering role in the North policy by upgrading the Special Projects Section, which was under the Business Development Bureau, to a separate bureau; this bureau now has 12 members. Hong Chi-chun, who has been involved in communist bloc trade since he joined the agency, was appointed chief of this Special Projects Bureau. Kim Chi-hong, a China expert, became the first section chief, while the second section chief has yet to be named. Hong Chi-chun joined KOTRA with the top score on the entrance examination and was the first South Korean to visit the East European bloc. He has developed close relationships with powerful figures there, including the presidents of some banks. Hong predicts, "Very soon the East European market, including the Soviet Union, will be seen as the third market after Vietnam and the Middle East." He also said, "Sooner or later, words like Soviet Chaebol [conglomerate made up of Koreans who have made money trading with the USSR] and Hungarian Chaebol will be widespread among people."

Section Chief Kim visited China many times. He has recently been to Shandong and Liaoning Provinces. He received his MBA degree in Taiwan. As an expert on trade with China, he gives lectures on this issue.

Scholars Like Yi Ki-taek, Kim Tal-chung, and Kim Hak-chun Are Also Active

There are many people who are involved with the North policy on an individual basis. President No's brother-in-law Kim Pok-tong is one of them. It is known that he is in charge of policy toward the PRC. As an adviser to KOTRA, he visited the PRC, leading a trade representatives' group last June. He did not deny his role and announced immediately after his return, "The relationship with China is developing and we are aiming toward normalization of diplomatic relations. I, if necessary, will go back to China."

Besides Kim, there are many scholars who are actively involved in developing relationships in the PRC, the Soviet Union, and the East European bloc. Many scholars have contributed to "Korea's North Policy," a report by the Japanese Foreign Ministry to its prime minister. Professor Yi Ki-taek of Yonsei University has played a leading role in personal exchanges between Korea and Hungary, with government encouragement, since the Fifth Republic era. Professor Kim Tal-chung of Yonsei University visited the Soviet Union many times on government business,

since it was very difficult for government officials to visit the Soviet Union. As an expert on the Soviet Union and the East European bloc, Dr Yi Yun-hui, who is studying at Munich University in West Germany, is also helping the government in its North policy. Prof Kim Hak-chun, who is also staying in Munich, is actively contacting people in the Communist bloc.

The government also recently established a separate office to handle only economic cooperation affairs with the communist bloc. This is called the "Northern Economy Working Group" and is chaired by Mun Hui-kap, deputy minister of the economic planning board. The committee belongs to the Overseas Cooperative Committee composed of ministers from each ministry. From now on, this working group will take full charge of economic policy affairs involving the Communist bloc, which had previously been controlled by the National Security Planning Agency. The government also decided to establish a new private organization, tentatively called the "Association for Northern Economic Exchange," which will handle economic cooperation with the northern countries, and it has unofficially decided on Yi Han-pin as president. He will also play a role in the North policy. It is also known that Hwang In-chong, vice president of the Korea Development Institute was unofficially nominated to be general secretary, with Kim Pok-tong as adviser. These decisions point toward the normalization of the North policy.

Red Cross To Send Relief Items to Armenia
SK1712013088 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 17 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] In an unprecedented move, the Korea National Red Cross (KNRC) will send Monday some 50 tons of emergency supplies and medicine to the victims of the devastating earthquake in northern Armenia, the Soviet Union.

KNRC officials said yesterday they have discussed with the league of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LRCS) a plan to charter a Korean Air cargo plane to carry the relief items to the Soviet Union.

KNRC received a cable from LRCS saying that Soviets will accept relief items the Korean Red Cross offered to provide, said a Red Cross official, who asked not to be further identified.

Three-to-four Korean Red Cross officials will be sent to the Soviet Union to deliver the relief supplies to the Soviet Red Cross society, he said.

KNRC presently has no plans to dispatch medical doctors, the official added.

This is the first time that the Korean Red Cross will send emergency supplies to the Soviet Union with which the nation has no diplomatic ties. It has provided emergency aid only to non-Communist countries, including \$10,000 to the victims of an earthquake in Mexico in 1986, he said.

Red Cross officials would not go into details only saying the KNRC has contacted the Soviet Ministry of Civil Aviation and Flight Bureau for permission for a Korean Air plane to fly over Siberian air space.

Earlier, the government issued a statement offering help for victims of the Armenian disaster.

"We hope that the scars left by the earthquake will be cured at an early date, and we pledge to provide as much personnel and materials assistance as possible for the relief works on humanitarian grounds," the statement said.

KNRC president Kim Sang-hyon also sent a cable to Dmitry Venedictov, chairman of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, expressing sympathy to bereaved families of the earthquake.

At present, Korea and the Soviet Union have no diplomatic relations. But both countries have recently agreed to set up trade offices in each other's country.

The Soviet Union participated in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, along with other Communist-bloc countries.

Some Korean officials have gone to Moscow to attend international gatherings.

Korean corporations are reportedly preparing to put money in projects to develop the mineral-rich Siberia.

The Soviet Union recently asked Korea to provide a loan of \$300 million to be used for the development of Siberia, according to Yi Son-ki, president of the Korea Trade promotion Corp.

Soviet Union Simplifies Visa Work for South
SK1712002088 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Dec 88 p 1

[By correspondent Chong Hun]

[Text] Tokyo—The Soviet government ordered its overseas missions earlier this month to issue visas to South Koreans wishing to enter the socialist country at the discretion of heads of the missions, diplomatic sources in Tokyo said.

South Koreans wishing to enter the Soviet Union have filed applications for visas to the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo. The embassy issued visas after referring the applications to the Foreign Ministry in Moscow, and the process took a long time.

The Soviet measure affecting all Soviet embassies abroad is considered as "an act of positive openness to South Koreans," said the sources.

With the new visa procedures, tourist visas can be issued within 24 hours upon request. About 20 South Korean entrepreneurs have already entered the Soviet Union on tourist visas issued under simplified procedures so far this month, it was learned.

The sources said the Tokyo-based Sokora Tourist Agency, a Soviet-financed firm, would send its agents to South Korea during January, February and April next year in a bid to promote south Korean travel to the socialist country which has no diplomatic relations with South Korea.

Hungarian Ambassador Meets Press on Relations
SK1712003088 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Dec 88 p 2

[Text] Hungarian Amb. Sandor Etre, the first head of its permanent mission in Seoul, disclosed yesterday that Hungary had never had any prior consultations with its allies, like the Soviet Union, about the exchange of permanent missions with South Korea.

As a sovereign country, Hungary made the decision on its own, Amb. Etre said in an hour and a half meeting with the press over lunch at the Press Center, sponsored by the Kwanhun Club, a fraternal society of senior journalists.

Taking questions on various issues ranging from inter-Korean talks on reunification to his erstwhile ambassadorship in North Korea, the first Hungarian ambassador to South Korea said he had no intention to play go-between for inter-Korean exchanges and unification efforts.

Direct talks between the two parties concerned is "the best method" on the inter-Korean matter, he said.

Asked about a wall poster recently put up at the Seoul National University campus criticizing the approach between Seoul and Budapest, Amb. Etre said, "Our position is that the Hungarian mission here will serve to contribute to peace and relaxing tensions on the Korean peninsula, not to perpetuate the division as the students allege."

The following are questions and answers between Amb. Etre and journalists at the luncheon press meeting:

Q: We hear that the Hungarian vice sports minister played a big role in setting up the permanent mission in Seoul and Budapest. Could you confirm this?

A: I personally know him well. I understand that many officials of the Hungarian sports association, besides the vice sports minister, had various contacts with South Korean sports officials to promote sports exchanges before the two governments exchanged their missions. Hungary was the first socialist country to announce its participation in the Seoul Olympics.

Q: Did you have any prior consultations with countries like the Soviet Union and China about your exchange of permanent missions with Seoul?

A: We had never had any prior consultations with the Soviet Union, China or any other socialist countries. This is an independent decision by the Hungarian government as a sovereign country. We only notified them of the mission exchange just before both governments issued the joint communique. We will maintain good relations with North Korea in the future. We hope the other party (North Korea) will also make efforts to keep Hungarian-North Korean relations in good shape.

Q: As you know, in socialist countries, party-to-party relations usually are given a higher priority than government-to-government relations. South Korea and Hungary now just have government-to-government relations. What do you think about this matter?

A: It's rather a difficult question. In my opinion, it is important to keep government-to-government relations in good order, above all, and then the matter of party-to-party relations can be considered later in the process.

Q: You are the first Hungarian ambassador who served both in North and South Korea. What is your idea on inter-Korean exchanges and reunification.

A: As the Hungarian representative of our mission here, I am not authorized to touch on the matter. I hope every country will settle their own matters peacefully. In this respect, I hope both South and North Korea will come to the negotiating table in a good atmosphere and settle their matter.

Q: Are you willing to act as the go-between for the two Koreas?

A: We have never meddled in the internal affairs of other countries, and we never will. I think the best method on the matter is direct talks between the two Koreas.

Q: What is your impression of South Korea before and after your arrival here?

A: While serving as Hungarian ambassador in Pyongyang, I kept tabs on developments in South Korea on TV and radio and I have long been interested in the Korean peninsula since my youth. What struck me most was the brilliant economic growth of South Korea. I came here only 11 days ago, and I haven't yet gone out to the street even for a walk.

Q: What is your view on the process of openness in North Korean society?

A: I think any socialist country has their own schedule for openness, so I don't want to talk about it.

Q: Did you meet Kim Chong-il?

A: I guess I met him during my studies in Pyongyang in my youth, but I am not sure.

Banks Offer \$125 Million Loan to Hungary
SK1712125188 Seoul YONHAP in English
1246 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea has offered to grant 125 million U.S. dollars worth of commercial loans to Hungary soon, a Seoul-based vernacular daily said in an edition just published for Sunday.

Quoting banking business sources, the CHOSON ILBO reported that an agreement on the cited loans was signed here Wednesday between a Korean consortium of eight banks and the Central Bank of Hungary. The Korea exchange bank and the Korea Development Bank are included among those Korean banks, the nationally circulated paper said.

The contract reportedly provides that the loans should be repayed in eight years at an interest rate somewhat higher, yet unspecified, than the London Inter-Bank offered rate after a grace period of five years and six months.

Analysts said the loans, the first between Seoul and Budapest following the two countries exchanged permanent missions earlier this year, virtually are transactions between governments because the manager of the consortium is the Korea Exchange Bank. [sentence as received]

Immediate comments were not available from officials of any of those mentioned Korean banks.

It is also known that the South Korean Government is considering extending some other loans to the Eastern European country through Seoul's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, and that private credits are being arranged here for Hungary.

CHUNGANG ILBO, XINHUA To Exchange News
OW1912101088 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT
19 Dec 88

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 KYODO—The South Korean evening newspaper CHUNGANG ILBO reported on Monday that it has concluded a news exchange agreement with China's official XINHUA NEWS AGENCY.

It is the first such arrangement between mass media of the two countries.

The evening newspaper said the contract was signed last Thursday in Hong Kong where a XINHUA's external agency is located.

Under the contract, CHUNGANG ILBO will send photos and news materials to XINHUA in exchange for teletyped news articles and photos.

Minister Holds Talks With Iraq Counterpart
SK1912024988 Seoul YONHAP in English
0238 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—Iraqi Housing and Construction Minister Tahir Muhammad Hassun al-Marzuq and Korean Construction Minister Pak Sung, in talks here Monday, began discussing Korean firms' participation in rehabilitation projects in Iraq.

The talks were held during the fourth session of a Korea-Iraq joint committee meeting which concludes Tuesday.

During his stay in Korea, Al-Marzuq is also expected to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun and meet with Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, Trade and Industry Minister Han Sung-su and Finance Minister Yi Kyu-song for discussions on the restoration projects.

Workers Demonstrate in Front of Japanese Embassy
SK1912092088 Seoul YONHAP in English
0912 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—South Korean workers of a Japanese-owned company demonstrated in front of the Japanese Embassy in downtown Seoul Monday demanding wage hikes and improved working conditions.

About 100 female employees of the T.N.D. Co., an electronic components maker in Siheung, about 30 kilometers south of Seoul, protested in front of the embassy's main gate chanting slogans denouncing the Japanese management.

The protesters also distributed bulletins which said "the Japanese manager has rudely oppressed Korean workers."

The workers have urged embassy officials to help resolve the dispute with the Japanese management. Company officials were not immediately available for comment.

About 40 workers from the company also staged a sit-in at the Japanese Embassy last Friday, claiming that Japanese managers have suppressed activities of their labor union.

About five hours after the demonstration began at 11:40 a.m., the protesters were dispersed by riot police.

Air Force Chief Stresses Combat Readiness
SK1812030588 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] Gen. So Tong-yol, air force chief of staff, directed that the ROK Air Force step up its combat capabilities and readiness to better cope with the ever-rising air superiority of North Korea.

The directive came at the year-end meeting of key air force commanders held at the Air Force Headquarters in southern Seoul yesterday.

He addressed the meeting saying that North Korea had made a remarkable buildup in its military strength, particularly, in the air force.

The Pyongyang regime, he, said, introduced an unknown number of MiG-29 fighter-bombers and SU-25 fighters and had deployed the sophisticated aircraft in operational service.

North Korea increased operational flights by 78 percent this year over last year, Gen. So pointed out.

Arms experts analyzed that the Russian-made MiG-29s and SU-25s were equivalent to F-16s and A-10s which the Korean and the U.S. Air Forces now operate in the south.

The main features of an MiG-29 include: maximum speed 2.3 Mach; cruise range 1,125 km; ceiling 18,200 m; operational radius 873 km; weight empty 9.69 tons; length 17.01 m; span 11.4 m; height 4.1 m; crew 1; rader range 73 km.

Its main armaments are six AA-10 missiles, 2 tons of rockets, machineguns and other weapons system.

Ministry Restores Ranks of Former Officers
SK1812033788 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] The Ministry of National Defense has restored the ranks of six former military officers, including four generals, who had been demoted to private for various reasons, it was announced yesterday.

The six include Kim Kae-won, former Army chief of staff who was chief secretary to the late President Pak Chong-hui when Pak was assassinated on Oct. 26, 1979, and Yun Cha-chung, a former Air Force chief of staff.

Other officers who regained their original military ranks are Yu Sam-sok, former chief of the ministry's Defense Industry Bureau; Kim Pyong-on, former chief of the Veterans Management Bureau; and two colonel-level officers.

It brought to 12 the number of former general-level military officers who have got back their original ranks after the ministry restored the ranks of eight former generals on Nov. 28 this year.

New Assembly Secretary General Appointed
SK1812023688 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Dec 88 p 2

[Text] Pak Sang-mun, deputy secretary general for legislation affairs, was promoted to secretary general of the National Assembly yesterday.

The appointment by House speaker Kim Chae-sun of Pak as new secretary general of the Assembly was endorsed in a vote during a plenary House session yesterday.

The post of Assembly secretary general has been vacant since last October when acting secretary general Yi Yang-u tendered his resignation as the three opposition parties refused to endorse him.

Aide to Late President Pak Under Probe
SK1812033188 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] Kim Kae-won, former chief secretary to the late President Pak Chong-hui, told the prosecution yesterday he did not have any knowledge of the 900 million won in cash which was found at Chongwadae after Pak's death in October, 1979.

Prosecutors, who questioned Kim yesterday on the whereabouts of the cash, quoted the former four-star general as saying, "I don't have any knowledge of the Chongwadae properties at the time and the 900 million won as well."

Government officials said 900 million won was found at Chongwadae when Pak was slain by Kim Chae-kyu, his close friend and director of the Korea Central Intelligence Agency [KCIA]. KCIA is the predecessor of the Agency for National Security Planning.

The officials said 600 million was given to Pak Kun-hye, the eldest daughter of Pak, 200 million won to Chong Sung-hwa, who was Army chief of staff at that time and the remaining 100 million won went missing. Chong allegedly used 200 million won for Army Headquarters.

Prosecutors also continued their probe of the scandal involving Northrop and issuance of golf course licenses.

Prosecutors also are probing the files and record books of the Ilhae, Saesedae (New Generation) and Saesedae heart foundations.

The record books, handed over voluntarily by the foundations to the prosecution, were scrutinized with two officials of the Saesedae Foundation present for questioning on management of the fund, investigators said.

Lawmaker Files Suit To Regain 1980 Assets
SK1812035688 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] Rep. Chong Chae-mun of the opposition Reunification Democratic Party and his father Chong Hae-yong, a former opposition lawmaker, have filed a court suit to seek the return of 900 million won in personal assets confiscated in 1980 as part of the forfeiture of ill-gotten wealth of politicians.

It is the first time that any of the 70 people who forfeited their properties on the orders of the powerful Special Committee for National Security Measures has taken legal action for the return of their property.

If successful, the suit is expected to prompt similar lawsuits.

The committee seized properties of high-ranking public officials and politicians on the pretext of retrieving the ill-gotten wealth of corrupt public figures.

Chong Hae-yong, 74, was then a leading legislator of the main opposition party, the now-defunct New Democratic Party.

Those who forfeited their assets at that time included Yi Hu-rak, former director of the Korea Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA), and Kim Chong-pil, former prime minister who now leads the minor opposition New Democratic Republican Party, and Yi Sae-ho, ex-Army chief of staff. KCIA is predecessor of the Agency for National Security Planning.

Court officials said the petition for nullifying the transfer registration of Chongs' assets was brought to the Seoul District Civil Court yesterday.

In the petition, senior Chong said he and his son had to agree to the original "donation" because they felt their lives were threatened while they were detained by military and police investigators.

The senior Chong said that he was taken to the National Police headquarters without an arrest warrant by Lt. Col. Yi Hak-pong, a Martial Law Command officer who was in charge of investigating the so-called illicit fortune makers, and other investigators on July 18, 1980.

"Despite the 36 days of investigation there, they failed to find any evidence that I accumulated fortune by illegal means," Chong claimed.

He said the investigators even took his son into an investigation room to press them to donate 2.5 billion won worth of properties to the state.

Rep. Chong had to hand over his seal and stocks to the investigators as they felt their lives were threatened during the investigation, he claimed.

"To wrench our agreement, the investigators even took turns hitting me and my son in the face and also fellow opposition legislators, Pak Yong-nok and Song Won-yong," said Chong.

Properties sought by the Chongs include 1.32 million pyong of forest land in Namyangju-kun, Kyonggi province and 710,000 stocks of two companies.

The forest land, which had been owned by Rep. Chong, was sold by public auction and the stocks went into government coffers. Of the stocks, 390,000 were owned by the senior Chong and the remaining 320,000 by Chong's wife, Song Ok-cha.

Chon Rejects Request To Testify at Hearing

SK1812041488 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
18 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] The National Assembly has decided to give ex-President Chon Tu-hwan and Choe Kyu-ha one more chance to voluntarily testify before a parliamentary panel probing the 1980 Kwangju incident.

The four political parties' representatives on the panel yesterday tentatively agreed to put off subpoenaing Chon and Choe to appear at the panel hearing which resumes tomorrow for a three-day run.

Chon and Choe had been asked to testify at the hearing tomorrow and Tuesday, respectively.

Chon notified panel chairman Mun Tong-hwan yesterday of his decision to reject the request via his legal consultant Yi Hyong-u, former secretary-general of the National Assembly Secretariat.

Choe also expressed his intention not to attend the hearing when Mun visited his house Friday afternoon.

The ruling DJP founded by Chon eight years ago has flatly opposed having Chon testify before the panel.

At yesterday's meeting, the three opposition parties agreed to postpone issuing subpoenas for Chon and Choe this time on the grounds that if they rejected the writs, their testimony would never be heard.

The panel is scheduled to hear testimony tomorrow from three persons, Choe; Yi Hui-song, the martial law commander at the time of the Kwangju incident; and So Chun-yol, then commander of martial law forces in Cholla province.

Slated to testify Tuesday are five people, including Chon and then Education Minister Kim Ok-kil.

Wednesday, three people, including Pak Chon-pyong, then an Army division Commander and currently a ruling party legislator, and Chong Wong, another Army division commander, are to testify.

The final decision on whether to postpone forcing Chon and Choe to testify before the panel this week will be made at a general meeting of the panel members tomorrow.

Youths Attack DJP Branch Office

SK1812012988 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] About 10 youths, believed to collegians, stormed into the office of the Chonju chapter of the Democratic Justice Party yesterday, and rioted there until they were hauled away by police.

They were armed with axes and knives, and therefore party members at the office were helpless.

The intruders chanted various slogans including "Down with President No Tae-u."

Regular Assembly Session Closes 17 December
SK1812023088 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] The 144th regular Assembly closed its 100-day sitting yesterday after passing 70 bills, 14 motions and one resolution.

Before the closing of the session, Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun and the other new Cabinet members introduced themselves to the lawmakers. The rival parties decided to further review 100 bills, which were not passed during the sitting because of partisan differences. Two of the bills deal with the revision of local autonomy law and the National Security Law.

The ruling party opposed direct elections of mayors and governors in the forthcoming local autonomy system although Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy advocates full-scale implementation of the local autonomy system.

Kim Yong-sam's reunification Democratic Party and Kim Chong-pil's New Democratic Republican Party showed passive stances over direct elections of mayors and provincial governors in the early stage. The ruling party opposed the direct elections of mayors and governors as it has slim chances for winning the posts the government has appointed and it fears the deepening of provincialism.

Due to an objection from the ruling party, the Assembly failed to adopt a report highlighting the results of the Assembly audit and inspection of the executive branch. The report demanded that the government set up an institutional device to monitor power abuses by the secretariat of Chongwadae (President Mansion), root out irregularities in personal management in officialdom and for the government to cut down the number of private contracts in its initiation of public projects and procurement.

During the regular session, the Assembly looked into affairs of the government branches and state-invested enterprises for the first time in 16 years. To ensure the success of the Seoul Olympics, the Assembly adjourned its session for 20 days between Oct. 5-24.

The highlight of the regular session was the operation of the special Assembly sessions, which looked into the irregularities of the Fifth Republic, the truth behind the 1980 military suppression of the Kwangju massacre and the mass dismissal of journalists and the forced closure and realignment of news media organizations.

However, partisan disputes delayed the revision of such important laws on the Agency for National Security Planning, the Social Protection Law, the Local Autonomy Law and the Bank of Korea Law. They will review these laws in February when an extraordinary session opens.

Assembly Should Change Hearing Procedures
SK1712004488 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Dec 88 p 2

[By staff reporter Yi Chang-soo: "Assembly Hearings Reveal Some Defects in Operation"]

[Text] The Assembly hearings, first introduced in Korea 70 days ago, proved to be powerful in shaping political culture and directing its undercurrents.

The televised hearing sessions forced ex-president Chon Tu-hwan and his wife Yi Sun-cha to go into internal exile after apologizing for misdeeds committed during his seven-year rule.

Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party gained in popularity by outshining Kim Tae-chung's party for Peace and Democracy because of brilliant performances by some RDP members during the hearings.

Although difficult to quantify, the look into past misdeeds must have also eroded the people's confidence in public institutions—the presidency, the judiciary, the legislature and news media.

The parliamentary hearings, in which former power brokers and ex-political victims "reversed roles," snatched the highest TV viewership ratings ever as millions of people, from salaried workers to farmers, glued themselves to TV screens.

Several defects though have been detected in the operation of the Assembly hearings, which delved into past corruptions, the truth behind the 1980 Kwangju massacre and the forced merger and closure of news media organizations as well as mass dismissal of journalists.

Many lawmakers were criticized for being dull when questioning and most of the 70 witnesses for hiding vital information. TV viewers became weary of sometimes biased operation of the Assembly panels by their chairmen.

Assemblymen were victims of their own making. In the hearings, they never hesitated to treat witnesses as criminal defendants while showing no serious concerns for their honor and privacy. One Assemblyman even asked Chong Ku-ho, former president of KBS, what his intelligent quotient was.

It has been routine for lawmakers to list rumors without providing any evidence. Their emotional, illogical, sentimental, low-quality and name-calling remarks and behavior drew wild jeers from TV viewers.

Preoccupied with their constituents, many Assemblymen sought to use the hearings as private forums to let their sometimes dogmatic and narrow-minded views be known to the people.

Ruling party Assemblymen trying to defend past mistakes, as well as poorly-performing opposition members became the targets of numerous protest phone calls, which included threats to their and their families' lives.

One of the most shocking episodes happened in the Assembly hearing on the 1980 Kwangju massacre. Rep. Yi Hae-chan of the Party for Peace and Democracy identified a photo of paratroopers standing before the bodies of North Korean infiltrators on Huksan-do Island as a photo from the quelling of the Kwangju uprising.

Immediately after the blunder, the first-term lawmaker saw his private office being occupied by a group of reservist paratroopers who demanded his resignation from the National Assembly.

Most lawmakers spent more time in talking than listening to the replies from witnesses and expressed their own feelings and concluded their questioning without seeking any answer from the witnesses.

Many of the 70 witnesses were blamed for being too defensive when answering and adroitly hiding anything that might lead to criminal charges against them.

Chang Se-tong, ex-chief bodyguard to former president Chon, and Ho Mun-to, former unification minister, stubbornly tried to protect their disgraced mentor despite opposition lawmakers' threats to file perjury charges against them.

Through the hearings, the people came to realize the extent of the dark legacy of the past authoritarian regime with glimpses into institutional irregularities in the management of the state, the taming of the media and the illegitimate manner of Chon's rise to power.

TV viewers were shocked to hear many witnesses recount their sufferings and agony while being tortured in underground cells of the civilian and military intelligence apparatuses and police interrogation centers.

They came to understand how a successful business tycoon must react to a President's casual joke or tacit suggestion. And they also realized how the Kukje-ICC group was liquidated at the whim of the power holder.

Now, analysts and critics have suggested several ideas for the successful operation of the Assembly hearings in the future. Lawmakers should be given access to all data and document and state finances for preparations of their inquiry if Assembly hearing are to be more effective, they said.

News media must receive prior consent from witnesses before televising live and taking photos to protect the witnesses' privacy and individual integrity.

It is desirable that the Assembly use the hearings just for legislation preparation and supervision of the executive branch, leaving investigations and prosecution affairs with the proper state authorities. Analysts say that it is not the Assembly's main job to probe the wrongdoings of the past.

PPD Member Talks on Kang Yong-hun Institute
SK1712/11688 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Dec 88 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Anti-Government Articles"]

[Text] Rep. Cho Su-i-song of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy said yesterday that the JOURNAL OF KOREAN AFFAIRS published by a research institute founded by Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun in the United States carried articles of an anti-government nature.

The "testimony" of Cho, former professor at the University of Missouri, followed the denial of the Office of Prime Minister that the Research Institute on Korean Affairs established by Kang in 1970 was involved in publicity efforts for the Yusin (Revitalization) system, designed to ensure life-long rule for Pak Chong-hui.

Rep. Cho said, "I don't know who financed the research institute, but the JOURNAL OF KOREAN AFFAIRS published by the institute did not engage in publicity for the Yusin system."

Kim Tae-chung Advocates Special Prosecutor System
SK1712070588 Seoul YONHAP in English
0652 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 17 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, president of the largest opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), said Saturday that the ruling party should accept the idea of introducing a special prosecutor system for the probes by the parliamentary special committees.

Kim's remarks came amid reports that investigations by the National Assembly ad hoc committees including the panel probing corruption during the Fifth Republic of former President Chon Tu-hwan and the panel probing the 1980 Kwangju civil uprising have failed to meet public expectations.

"It is desirable for the National Assembly to introduce a special prosecutor system to complete promptly the panels' scheduled activities," Kim told reporters.

"The ruling party should accept the idea if it wants the panels to shortly end their work," he said.

Touching on the ongoing prosecution investigation into a variety of misdeeds perpetrated during Chon's era, the opposition leader said, "The prosecution's investigation has its limit in that it has not included former President Chon Tu-hwan among those to be questioned."

Kim, referring to a government plan to release 257 political detainees, said that some 50 prisoners, who were jailed on charges of espionage, should also be released before the end of this year. "However, it is inspiring that the government has shown a kind of progressive attitude," he added.

As for the National Assembly's confirmation Friday of Kang Yong-hun as prime minister, Kim said it is regrettable for the Assembly to approve Kang's appointment without receiving any pledge from the government that it would not again engage in such an "unconstitutional move" as President No Tae-u's recent cabinet shake-up which included Kang's appointment.

The PPD has argued that the president must name cabinet members at the recommendation of the prime minister after his approval by the Assembly.

RDP Says Too Much Police at Embassies, Campuses
SK1812020788 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Dec 88 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "Too Many Police"]

[Excerpt] The opposition RDP has accused the government of placing an excessive number of policemen around embassies and university campuses.

The party called for transferring the policemen to "crime-prone districts" to ensure public safety. [passage omitted]

PPD Questions Legitimacy of Kang Appointment
SK1812021288 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Dec 88 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "Warning on Legality"]

[Excerpt] It was plainly a mistake for the Assembly to approve Kang Yong-hun as prime minister without extracting a promise from President No Tae-u not to repeat his "violation of the Constitution," a PPD official said yesterday.

However, the party has given enough warnings to the administration to prevent it from violating the Constitution again by raising the issue of the legitimacy of the appointment, he said. [passage omitted]

Public Outcry Changes Lawmakers Pay Increase
SK1712012488 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] Public outcry has forced lawmakers to shelve a motion to hike their salaries by as much as 84.7 percent. They had to swallow their pride while giving in to public pressure and modifying the pay hike to a more modest 12 percent increase.

Lawmakers were hit hard for their plan when the news hit the streets that they were asking for the 84.7 percent increase at a time when average workers' demand for a 10 percent pay raise is being stone walled and the pay raise for government workers for next year was set at only 9.7 percent.

Local newspaperers said they were deluged with phone calls about the assemblymen's resolution to increase their allowance pay from the present vice-ministerial level of 1.7 million won to a ministerial level of 3.2 million won with the proposed increase.

The majority of the callers, according to the newspaper reports, were further outraged at the assemblymen's proposed removal of a clause which stipulates that a salary increase does not apply to incumbent lawmakers at the time of its approval.

The salary increase plan, if it were not stopped, would have gone into effect in January.

Kim Chung-il, 45, a company worker, called the CHOSON ILBO, saying these sort of assemblymen do not have the "right to discuss workers' rights or price stabilization."

Another citizen called the move "outrageous," especially at a time when students are striking against tuition raises and farmers are demonstrating against plunging price of red pepper, CHOSON quoted him as saying.

Angry citizens also called the SEOUL SINMUN and TONG-A ILBO.

One caller sarcastically asked why the lawmakers cannot survive on a vice-ministerial level pay when an average company worker is managing on only 200,000 won, SEOUL SINMUN reported.

A 45-year-old farmer from Kyonggi-do called the TONG-A ILBO, saying he feels betrayed by the assemblymen he had voted for.

Lawmakers of the Sixth Republic would only approve a 16 percent hike in grain prices when they knew all too well how farmers are heavily in debt, the farmer said. Their move to hike their salary by 84.7 percent is nothing short of betrayal, he was quoted as saying.

Comment from three major opposition parties on the plan was not available, but a spokesman for the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) said the party office has been receiving unceasing phone calls and that the lawmakers were made well aware of the popular negative response.

Representatives of the major parties, stung by the angry response, backed down and agreed to a much lower pay raise of 12 percent yesterday morning.

Hyundai Shipyard Workers Continue Strike
SK1712014088 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
17 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] Ulsan, Kyongsangnam-to—Some 20,000 workers of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. were on strike for the fifth consecutive day yesterday, paralyzing shipbuilding and other work.

The shipyard workers' union demands an increase in their annual bonus from 500 to 600 percent. They also demand raises in all types of allowances.

Instead, management is offering 100,000 won to each unionized worker.

The Union also wants to have their workload slashed to 44 hours a week and a progressive severance pay system.

The nation's largest shipyard was hit hard by a workers' strike last year. The shipyard remained idle for a total of about 70 days.

Ministry Orders 5,000 Tons of Beef Imports
SK1812031288 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Dec 88 p 6

[Text] The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry has decided to place orders for 5,000 tons of beef imports this month, advancing next year's import schedule as the beef price keeps a bullish tone.

In November, the ministry had the Livestock Products Marketing Organization Import 5,000 tons out of 35,000-39,000 tons to be imported next year.

In line with the ministry's measure, 2,000 tons of high-quality beef and 3,000 tons of general beef will be imported from the United States and Australia respectively, ministry officials said.

According to them, the imported beef stock stood at 2,600 tons as of Dec. 15, tantamount to 17-day consumption and the beef supply is not expected to meet the demand around the year-end season.

As of Dec. 15, a 400-kg ox was priced at 1,778,000 won, up 2,000 won from the level of 10 days before, but the price of cows and calves remained unchanged, showed a tally available at the ministry.

Burma

PRC Ambassador Calls on Construction Minister
BK1612150088 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Mr Cheng Ruisheng, PRC ambassador to Burma, called on Construction Minister Major General Tin Tun at 1300 today. During the meeting satisfaction was expressed at the progress of construction projects being implemented under the PRC-Burma bilateral friendship and economic and technical cooperation program. The two also consulted on cooperation on the Rangoon-Syriam road and railway bridge project which will be resumed soon.

The two also held friendly and frank discussions on matters related to the construction of a cultural theater—a gift from the PRC president.

The meeting ended at 1335.

Fishing Accords Signed With Foreign Concerns
BK1912145888 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Representatives of the (Sanwa) Company of Japan and responsible officials of the Fisheries Corporation exchanged a memorandum of understanding regarding the trawling of fish in Burmese territorial waters at the office of the corporation's managing director at 0930 today.

Under the agreement, fish and shrimp trawlers of the (Sanwa) Co will be used in the joint fisheries project.

Similar fishing agreements in Burmese waters were also signed with (Mars & Kos) Thailand, Co Ltd and (Atlantis) Corporation Ltd, of Thailand; (Sylvia) Industries and (Hwan Soo) Import & Export Co, of Malaysia; (Andes) Enterprise of Hong Kong; (Sin Cheong) Trading Ltd, of Singapore; Daewoo Industries and Ocean (Sumhat) Co Ltd, of South Korea; and (Taijo Tyoko) Co of Japan.

Commission Announces Registration of 167 Parties
BK1712074988 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 16 Dec 88

["Press Release No 156/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 16 December—the 8th day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era"]

[Text] As of 14 December, a total of 166 political parties have registered with this commission in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law. The following political party was allowed to register today, 16 December: Union National Democratic Party

Hence, as of today, a total of 167 political parties have registered with this commission under the Political Parties Registration Law.

More Political Parties Announce Objectives

National Republican Federation
BK1612123188 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 15 Dec 88

["Press Release No 153/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 15 December—the 7th day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era"]

[Text] 1. The following are extracts of the objectives and future programs of the National Republican Federation, which has registered with this Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters at 65-C Tank Road, Tadabyu Ward, No 10, Hlaing Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims:

- A. To establish a democratic state.
- B. To establish the solidarity and unity of all national people of the country.
- C. To strive for internal peace.
- D. To secure full human rights.
- E. To effectively work for the rehabilitation of the country.

3. Programs:

- A. Internal peace of the country will be established by means of peaceful coordination and discussion of all freely expressed wishes and problems of the national groups.
- B. A united and democratically administered state that allows equal human rights to everyone, irrespective of race and religion, will be established.
- C. Developments in agriculture, production, and trading will be brought about by means of free and fair competition.
- D. The state will undertake only those projects that are beyond the capability of individuals or private organizations.
- E. Primary education shall be free.
- F. Subjects of higher learning shall be freely selected, studied, and researched according to one's wishes.
- G. Full access to basic human rights and labor rights as prescribed by the United Nations shall be allowed.
- H. Every citizen shall have the right to enjoy security for food, clothing, and shelter needs when one can no longer earn a living.
- I. Laws that are drawn up in accordance with the people's wishes shall prevail for one to freely act upon and take a stand in matters of legislation, general administration, and administration of justice.
- J. At various stages of administrative machinery, one shall have freedom of action within the framework of rights and responsibilities prescribed by law.

K. Free and active international relations on an equal basis shall be established in the interest of the country and world peace.

National Democratic Youth

*BK1712091088 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 16 Dec 88*

["Press Release No 155/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 16 December—the 8th day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era"]

[Text] 1. The following are extracts of the objectives and future programs of the Genuine National Democratic Youth Organization, which has registered with this Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters at No 20 Ledauntkan Main Road, Thingangyun Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims

A. Politics

- 1) To work for genuine democracy and for the perpetuation of national unity.
- 2) To carry out educational and organizational work for the growth and expansion of genuine democracy.

B. Economy

- 1) To encourage the public, cooperatives, and private sectors to take part in domestic economic enterprises.
- 2) For the state to provide cash assistance to and invest in technical expertise for the farmers so that transformation from manual farming to mechanized farming will take place.

C. Social

- 1) To permit freedom of speech, freedom of writing, and freedom to organize in accordance with Burmese traditions and culture.
- 2) To provide state assistance to the children of poor farmers, workers, and other menial laborers so as to improve their lives.

D. Education

- 1) To work toward providing free education to everybody of age and to permit youths to choose the profession that they are interested in.

E. Health

- 2) To utilize modern methods and to promote through free medical care health standards for all the national people.

F. Foreign affairs

- 1) To practice an independent and neutral policy that is free and unattached.

Unity Democracy League

*BK1712094988 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 16 Dec 88*

["Press Release No 154/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 16 December—the 8th day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era"]

[Text] 1. The following are the extracts of the objectives and future programs of the Union of Burma Unity Democracy League, which has registered with the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has moved its headquarters to No 99, 1st floor, 37th Street, 5th Ward, Kyauktada Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims:

- A. To strive to the utmost for the friendship and unity of all the nationalities and citizens of all religious faiths who reside in the Union of Burma, for the improvement of their standard of living, and for peace and prosperity of the nation.
- B. To build a free judicial system in accordance with law.
- C. To build a peaceful and consolidated Union that guarantees, in accordance with genuine democratic practices, full rights in the social, health, and economic fields, including compulsory education under a new, free education system.
- D. To practice a foreign policy that is nonaligned and is aimed at preventing a world war, at opposing colonialism, apartheid, and inequitable trading relations, and at establishing firm and friendly relations with the United Nations, the World Bank, the IMF, and the other international organizations.
- E. To draft and implement a new state constitution that is strong and that guarantees the basic human rights of all the citizens.

3. Programs:

- A. To work for the strengthening of the sovereignty and for the perpetuation of the Union of Burma.
- B. To work toward the goal of making the tillers own the land they work on, of ensuring economic rights to the peasants, and of establishing a modern and free agricultural system.
- C. To work systematically through plans to develop a national industry that is based on agriculture.
- D. To work to establish new economic bases for the public, the independent cooperatives, and the private sectors, and to take part in joint ventures with both local and overseas concerns.
- E. To work to establish modern education and public health that are of international standards.
- F. To bring together capable youths and to provide them with training so that good leaders will emerge in the future.
- G. To establish friendly relations and exchange contacts with the neighboring Southeast Asian nations as well as with other world countries.

Republican Party

*BK1812082488 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 17 Dec 88*

[“Press Release No 157/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 17 December—the 9th day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era”]

[Text] 1. The following are the extracts of the objectives and future programs of the Republican Party, which has registered with the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters at No 47, 27th Street, Pabedan Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims

A. To build a democratic state where genuine democratic structures flourish and in which the people share all legislative, administrative, and judicial powers.

B. To work toward securing similar human rights and benefits that the citizens of developed nations enjoy.

C. To work toward raising the standard of living and providing life security for farmers, workers, and civil servants.

D. To work toward the perpetuation of the country's independence and sovereignty and toward peaceful coexistence between nations.

E. To strive for the utmost strengthening of unity among the national people.

3. Programs

A. To establish a genuine democratic administration.

B. To ensure freedom of operation and a low tax scheme for private trading, private economic enterprises, private manufacturing, and joint ventures between private concerns and foreign firms and governments.

C. To build an education system that is of international education standards.

D. To provide protection through laws of the cultures and literature of national groups.

E. To provide all citizens equal rights to medical treatment.

F. To provide freedom in farmland ownership, freedom to cultivate crops according to one's wish, and freedom to store, transport, and trade in agricultural crops.

G. To provide benefits to workers according to the labor contributed.

H. To ensure that students further their appropriate studies each according to his own capability, and to keep constant watch on strengthening their moral principles.

United Democratic Front

*BK1812092588 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 17 Dec 88*

[“Press Release No 158/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 17 December—the 9th day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era”]

[Text] 1. The following are the extracts of the objectives and future programs of the United Democratic Front, which has registered with the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters at No 144, second floor, 38th Street, Kyauktada Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims:

A. To work toward the immediate establishment of a state constitution that fully guarantees the birth rights of each citizen as well as the rights of each national group.

B. To systematically advance from a backward farming nation to a modern industrialized country for the sake of developing the national economy.

C. To work toward making all the races in the Union give mutual recognition and full understanding to the right of self-determination by all the national and ethnic minority groups within the Union.

D. To build friendship with all members of the world community of nations, whether they be big or small, on the basis of equality and mutual respect for each other's internal affairs.

E. To permit freedom to all the national people to promote their own religious faith according to their own customs and traditions without affecting the other religions.

3. Programs:

A. To permit and encourage capital investments that have no strings attached to them from both foreign and local sources with the aim of promoting modern industrialization throughout the Union.

B. To provide guarantees for the manufacturing and trading of goods by both overseas and local concerns.

C. To work hand in hand with all world nations, particularly with neighboring nations, in the efforts to prevent world war and regional wars.

D. To practice an independent foreign policy that contributes to the development of the Union.

E. To strive toward the formation of a great democratic front that comprises as equal partners parties and organizations that are free and unattached and that generally share common objectives at the most fundamental level.

F. To oppose any system or act that violates basic human and democratic rights and to give priority to the respect for humanity in accordance with the UN Charter and the UN Declaration on Human Rights.

Peasants Party

*BK1912094588 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 18 Dec 88*

["Press Release No 159/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 18 December—the 10th day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era"]

[Text] 1. The following are the extracts of the objectives and future programs of the Peasants Party, Burma, which has registered with the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters at No 84, Hume Road, Sanchaung Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims:

A. Peasants shall have the right to own land according to the slogan: the Tiller Shall Be the Owner of Land, and actual ownership shall be granted subject to suitable rules.

B. To expand cultivation on the existing 2 million acres of fallow land and 40 million acres of virgin land by utilizing modern methods and by granting farming families the ownership of sufficient quantity of land.

C. To solve the unemployment problem and develop agriculture by expanding cultivation of farmland and to manufacture goods through industries based on agriculture.

D. To develop home cottage industries as a means of developing the rural economy.

E. To advance toward a prosperous era where people will not have to worry about food, clothing, shelter, health, and education matters.

3. Programs:

A. To work through plans, utilizing necessary technical expertise and modern farm machines, to quickly and successfully implement multiple cropping in the production of all varieties of agricultural crops.

B. To make plans so that the farmers growing agricultural raw materials will become owners and founders of industries, thereby elevating their status and class.

C. To introduce all types of insurance and rural banks owned by peasants down to the village as a means of providing security for the farmers;

D. To make effective plans to open suitable schools so that children of farmers will be exposed to modern education and also to give them the chance of working in the family farm production.

E. To work through short- and long-term plans to develop the rural economy by bringing electrical power to every village. This will open up opportunities for home cottage industries utilizing electricity, ensure a balanced economic development in regions and Burma proper, and also ensure equality in the standard of living in rural and urban areas.

Labor Party Platform

*BK1912094788 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 19 Dec 88*

["Press Release No 160/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 18 December—the 10th day of the waxing moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era"]

[Text] 1. The following are the extracts of the objectives and future programs of the Labor Party, Burma, which has registered with this Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters at No 84, Hume Road, Sanchaung Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims

A. To actively join, through democratic means, the physical and mental efforts being made by the workers to build a prosperous and peaceful Union of Burma.

B. To advance toward a prosperous nation, which is devoid of troubles and is fulfilled with all of life's pleasures, by bettering the life of workers and boosting industrial production in accordance with the motto: Wealth to both the owners and the workers.

C. To work from the basis of the unity of the workers toward the unity of the whole nation with the aim of consolidating the society that practices parliamentary democracy.

3. Programs

A. To work through plans and democratic means to successfully implement the objectives of the Labor Party, Burma.

B. To advance toward the goal of building an industrial country through the mental and physical efforts of the workers and by keeping in mind the interests of the peasants, who are the allies of the workers.

C. To work toward developing industry by bettering the life of workers and boosting industrial production in accordance with the motto: Wealth to both the owners and the workers.

D. To open child care centers at mills and factories where women workers work.

E. To provide guaranteed medical care arrangements assuring workers of health care and medical treatment.

F. To make arrangements for the mutual coordination between employers and workers so as to ensure industrial relations remain smooth.

Traders May Petition for Visa Ban Lifting

*BK1912031488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0300 GMT
19 Dec 88*

[By Devabhinand Devakula]

[Text] Rangoon, Dec 19 (AFP)—Merchants in Rangoon say business is bad and they are considering asking the country's military leader General Saw Maung to lift a visa ban on foreign tourists and businessmen.

Kyi Win, 60, an electronics merchant in Rangoon's Scot Market, the largest here, said business in the capital and other Burmese cities was sluggish because the government had not waived the ban on tourist and business visas to "allow the money to flow in along with the foreigners."

"It's on everybody's mind that they wish the government to do away with the blockade, and allow Burmese embassies around the world to start issuing visas not only to tourists but to foreign businessmen and investors as well," Mr. Win said.

He added: "But who is to tell the government what to do? Collectively, we are speechless."

Rangoon stopped issuing visas in August following more than a month of nationwide pro-democracy demonstrations that paralyzed the military-backed government of former Burmese Prime Minister Maung Maung.

The Saw Maung administration on December 9 partially lifted its visa ban by allowing group tours to visit the country, Tourist Burma officials said last week.

Some 49 tourists of various nationalities are expected to visit Burma later this month, but they would be part of "package tours with strictly controlled itineraries," according to Tourist Burma.

Mr. Win, the owner of a small shop, said most of his goods had been smuggled into Rangoon across the Thai-Burmese border through the "black market" via Burma's northeastern Shan, eastern Karen and southeastern Mon States.

He said sporadic fighting between government troops and ethnic rebels had at times caused delays in delivery because "the smuggling route was being choked."

Thai Army Chief and acting Supreme Commander General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who made a one-day visit to Burma on Wednesday, quoted Gen. Saw Maung as saying that he was in the process of restoring law and order and would "revitalize" the Burmese economy.

Gen. Saw Maung's caretaker government on December 7 formed a 10-member Foreign Investment Commission, chaired by Finance Minister Maung Maung Khin, a week after its enactment of the new Foreign Investment Law to study foreign investment proposals.

Trader Min Naing, 23, whose wood carving shop is in Shwedagon, next to Rangoon's largest Buddhist pagoda, said: "Business in general is bad, because the local people do not have money, and the kind of wood carvings and engravings I produce impress and attract mostly foreign tourists, and not locals."

Mr. Naing said he had been forced to sell his goods to local shoppers at half price "or even less."

Another shopowner, asked to give his view of the caretaker government, said: "The government has promised us to hold multiparty general elections in the near future, and I am waiting to see what they do."

The trader acknowledged that the military administration has been able to maintain law and order.

"There is no more looting in Rangoon and elsewhere in Burmese cities and they have cleaned-up the capital... So far I have no objections," he said.

Students Reject Rangoon's Safe Return Offer

BK1712023188 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Dec 88 p 4

[Excerpts] Mae Sot, Tak—Burmese students who have joined Karen rebels to fight the military regime yesterday rejected Rangoon's offer to guarantee their safe return.

The students pledged they would not surrender to the Saw Maung regime and would continue to prepare for an armed struggle with military training by the Karen National Union [KNU].

Leaders of 4,000 Burmese Students from six camps in Burma said at the KNU's Kler Day base they had gathered to establish the All Burma Students Democratic Front [ABSDF] headquarters. [passage omitted]

Amid a blaze of publicity, Rangoon has welcomed a handful of students who took advantage of an amnesty offer which was extended from November 18 to December 31.

ABSDF leader Kyaw Kyaw said he did not believe Gen. Saw Maung's promise of safety, which was made to Army Commander Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut in Rangoon on Wednesday.

"Saw Maung is encouraging students to go home so he can destroy their power and their fight for freedom and democracy," said Kyaw Kyaw.

"We want to tell him we will never yield to the military dictatorship. We will fight until we get democracy and freedom."

Former Rangoon University lecturer Myint Hlaing said many students who returned had been killed, arrested or had disappeared.

He said a general election could be held but Saw Maung would decide who won. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Ministry Welcomes U.S. Move To Talk to PLO
BK1612104688 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0957 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 16 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia welcomes Washington's move to talk directly with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

Yusof Hitam, secretary-general of the ministry, said "it is good" that the United States will open direct talks with the PLO, ending a 13-year U.S. boycott of the PLO which Washington repeatedly described as a terrorist organization.

"This is a talking world, a world of dialogue and not a shooting world and we see no reason why they (the U.S.) should not talk with the PLO when they are now a state," he said.

Screening Process for New Refugees Suggested
BK1612120988 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
1129 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 16 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia has made a slight shift in its policy on Vietnamese refugees to meet situations arising from the closure of the Pulau Bidong transit camp off northeastern Terengganu State sometime next year, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Friday [16 December].

While Pulau Bidong would be closed to new arrivals, Malaysia was prepared to have a regional screening process by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to determine the status of the new refugees, Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Yusof Hitam said.

"We conceive this screening process as a sort of amnesty during which certain legal assumptions are not made," he told a monthly briefing for the press.

Malaysia's previous stand was that these refugees would not be eligible for amnesty and that every arrival would be eventually transferred elsewhere.

Malaysia, he said, had decided to be more "flexible" and was prepared to see the regularisation of the screening process. The UNHCR, at an informal session of Indonesian asylum seekers here recently, proposed the setting up of such a regional screening centre.

Official Declines Comment on Philippine Report
BK1612105588 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0931 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 16 (OANA/BERNAMA)—The Malaysian Foreign Ministry Friday [16 December] declined comment on a Manila press report that Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus had summoned the Malaysian envoy Thursday to express concern over the treatment of Filipino refugees in the east Malaysian state of Sabah.

Yusof Hitam, secretary-general of the ministry, said at a monthly briefing for the press here that he had not seen the report.

The report had quoted Manglapus telling the press that he had summoned the Malaysian ambassador, Emam Mohamed Hussein, to express concern over what the Philippines perceived as unfair treatment of Filipino refugees by the authorities in Sabah.

The report said there are about 300,000 Filipino refugees in the east Malaysian state, many of whom came there during the height of the civil strife between the Manila government and the Moro National Liberation Front in the 1970s.

Yusof noted that the Malaysian federal government would be meeting with the Sabah state government shortly with some proposals on how to resolve the refugee problem.

Sabah Chief Minister Joseph Pairin Kitingan was recently quoted as saying he would brief Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed Tuesday on the proposals to resolve the problems of illegal immigrants in the state.

Minister on Cooperation With Indonesia
BK1812070888 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0600 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] The first Malaysia-Indonesia dialogue, Malindo, which ended today has resolved to step up the functional and institutional cooperation in all areas of activities involving youth between Malaysia and Indonesia. It also agreed to intensify youth training exchange program within the two countries, such as manpower and entrepreneurship training.

Speaking at the news conference at the end of the 4-day dialogue session in Melaka, outside Kuala Lumpur today, the chief of UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Youth, Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak, said both sides also resolved to establish a mechanism to implement future dialogue sessions and activities. Datuk Sri Najib who is also the minister of youth and sports said, the dialogue expressed strong support for the view expressed by Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir that the relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia is a basis to maintain stability in Southeast Asia.

A total of 40 representatives throughout Indonesia and 60 from Malaysia took part in the dialogue organized by UMNO youth. The next Malindo dialogue session will be held in Jakarta in October next year.

Mahathir's South-South Perception Viewed
*BK1612134088 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0800 GMT 16 Dec 88*

[Commentary by John Doraisamy]

[Text] The Malaysian prime minister paid a 3-day unofficial visit to Singapore this week. One of the highlights of his program was a talk he gave at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, a research organization. The prime minister spoke on the challenges facing ASEAN and the Pacific region in the coming decade. He pinpointed the growing economic power of the massive trading blocs such as the European Community, the United States, and Japan.

In the prime minister's perception, the only practical way to cope with the problems that will emerge in future years is to cultivate and strengthen South-South solidarity. The Third World or developing countries constitute a unique grouping. They have similar if not identical problems. Most of them have the persistent problem of falling revenues earned from their commodity exports.

Often disillusionment with independence fits in as political independence is not matched by economic independence. The new forms of exploitation by powerful governments and powerful multinational companies alike have also given rise to serious tension. The newly formed South-South Commission has banded together the developing countries that believe in new international trading patterns and opening new contacts.

It is a principle fact of life that the developing world is now only becoming fully aware of its potential for a new course in international affairs. For many years, the former colonial territory, for example, had contacts with the colonial power rather than with their own neighbors. But that position is giving way to a new system. ASEAN is rapidly evolving into a dynamic regional association with enduring links with other developing countries.

The prime minister's address covered most of the salient issues in world affairs at the present time. He reaffirmed Malaysia's place in and commitment to the UN system. The present mood for peace should be thoroughly utilized by the world body to tackle some of the vital issues such as the pollution of the environment and the disarmament exercise. It has become obvious that the whole world is now facing very serious problems that can only be solved by determined international cooperation.

There are massive problems that require planning and enforcement of legal measures on a worldwide scale. It was not surprising at all that Dr Mahathir referred to the drug menace which has reached crisis proportions in

some parts of the world. The Malaysian Government is striving to adopt laws that have proved to be effective in the war on drugs. The latest reforms in this area provide for the confiscation of the ill-gotten gains of drug traffickers. The new convention on drug trafficking will probably be accepted and ratified by many members of international society.

Malaysia will be playing a more active role in the UN by virtue of its membership of the Security Council for the years 1989 and 1990. It ought to be a demanding but worthwhile role in view of the numerous changes occurring in international society.

Malaysia will take this responsibility seriously.

Mahathir Sets Up Multiracial Council on Policy
*BK1912070088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0558 GMT
19 Dec 88*

[By Mervin Nambiar]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 19 (AFP)—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed has announced the setting up of a consultative council of ethnic Malays and other races to help frame an economic policy for Malaysia for the post-1990 period.

Dr. Mahathir told top civil servants late Sunday he would invite leaders of opposition parties and pressure groups to sit on the council to avoid allegations of government partiality towards "bumiputras" [indigenous people], who are mostly ethnic Malays.

Ethnic Chinese and other races, who make up half of Malaysia's 16.5 million people, have attacked the government's New Economic Policy (NEP) framed after race riots in 1969, claiming its implementation had favoured ethnic Malays.

Non-Malay leaders say they have no quarrel with the NEP's broader objectives which, among other things, aim at eradicating poverty and restructuring society to bring ethnic Malays into the urban commercial and industrial sectors.

But they say overzealous implementation of the NEP programmes by ethnic Malay bureaucrats has eroded the welfare of non-Malays and undercut support for non-Malay parties in the ruling National Front coalition.

Dr. Mahathir said the council would examine the achievements and shortcomings of the NEP and draw up policy and programmes for the post-1990 period when the 20-year NEP programme runs out.

"The government promises to implement the policy decided by the council as the basis for the national economic policy after 1990," he said.

Top ethnic Chinese leaders have in recent months challenged government statistics showing shortfalls in NEP targets including programmes to give ethnic Malays an overall 30 percent stake in the corporate sector.

Statistics compiled by government agencies show that "bumiputra" ownership of share capital now stands at some 18 percent but will not exceed 22 percent when the NEP runs out in two years time.

Analysts said ethnic Malay politicians have used such statistics to justify calls for an extension of the NEP programmes that also give their community favoured treatment in education and employment.

Chua Jui Meng, a government MP from the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), told Parliament in October that there was "growing evidence" that ethnic Malay ownership of the corporate sector had exceeded 30 percent.

The NEP was being implemented in such a way as to bring about "Malay domination of the economy," Mr. Chua told the house in a speech which MCA sources said had the backing of the party's top leadership.

Businessmen say that a clear cut government statement on the economic policy it plans to pursue after 1990 could lift uncertainty and help promote growth.

"Dr. Mahathir's move to bring all parties into a consultative forum will cut politicking and improve the business environment," one banker said.

Comments on Policy Benefits

BK1912080488 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 29 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] Jitra, Monday—Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed stressed that the National Economic Policy after 1990 will be reviewed for people's benefit, not only for the benefit of the Barisan Nasional (BN) components.

He reaffirmed that the government will extend invitations to all parties concerned calling on them to contribute their respective views on the issue. He said, "We do not make policies with only the BN component parties but also with those people who are interested, such as entrepreneurs, academicians, and the intellectual group."

Replying to a reporter's question, Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir said the government has not yet held any discussions with the concerned parties but a follow-up action will be taken soon.

The prime minister said this when commenting on the Gerakan's [People's Movement Party] suggestion calling for an immediate preparation to be made for the discussion on the new policy after the expiry of the New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1990.

Last Saturday, Gerakan President, Datuk Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the new policy should provide equal opportunities for all besides fostering solidarity.

Earlier, Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir chaired the Kubang Pasu UMNO [New United Malays National Organization] meeting. Chief Minister Datuk Sri Haji Othman Aroff was also present at the meeting.

According to the prime minister, he clarified several current political issues during the meeting which included the issue of former Hamim [Muslim Front of Malaysia] President Datuk Haji Asri Muda and his committee members in UMNO. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir, who is concurrently the Barisan Nasional president, said Hamim will positively become a BN component, although many of its leaders have joined UMNO.

He said, "UMNO welcomes former Hamim leaders because our policy is to accept all Malays."

Singapore

Francis Seow Convicted; Loses Parliament Seat
BK1712095088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT
17 Dec 88

[By R.V. Lingam]

[Excerpts] Singapore, Dec 17 (AFP)—Singapore opposition MP Francis Seow lost his seat in Parliament Saturday [17 December] when he was convicted of three counts of tax evasion and fined a total of 9,000 Singapore dollars (4,500 U.S.).

In addition to the fine Mr. Seow, a former solicitor general, was ordered by a district court to pay a penalty of 8,114 Singapore dollars (4,057 U.S.) for income tax evasion from 1983-85.

Mr. Seow, 60, is in New York receiving treatment for a heart condition and did not attend the trial. Several lawyers said it was the first time a trial has been conducted here "ex-parte," [words indistinct] of the accused.

Under Singapore election law an MP fined more than 1,000 Singapore dollars or jailed for one year or more automatically loses his seat in parliament and remains disqualified for five years. Mr. Seow was fined 3,000 Singapore dollars (1,500 U.S.) on each of the three charges of which he was convicted.

Mr. Seow, who was detained for more than two months earlier this year under the Internal Security Act (ISA), is the second opposition MP to lose a seat in parliament in two years.

In 1986, Workers Party leader Joshua Jeyaretnam was disqualified from running for parliament for five years following a conviction over party funds. Mr. Jeyaretnam became independent Singapore's first opposition MP when he won a by-election in 1981. [passage omitted]

Mr. Seow was not represented during the trial. His solicitor Vinod Kumar Dube left the court Thursday when the judge ruled for "ex-parte" proceedings.

Mr. Dube had earlier asked for an adjournment until the return of Mr. Seow. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Hun Sen Holds News Conference 16 December

BK1712140888 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Report on 16 December news conference held by Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen in Phnom Penh on the occasion of the seventh withdrawal of SRV troops from Cambodia]

[Text] At the Chatomuk Conference Hall on the morning of 16 December, Comrade Hun Sen, Political Bureau member of the KPRP Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of foreign affairs, held a solemn news conference to inform the national and international news media about the second phase of the seventh Vietnamese volunteer troop withdrawal in 1988.

In attendance were many journalists of the national propaganda network, foreign journalists, embassy representatives and attaches of friendly countries accredited to Cambodia, and representatives of international organizations in Phnom Penh. Many Western journalists, including news agency correspondents, TV and movie cameramen, photographers, and magazine editors from several countries, such as Eastern Horizon, NEWSDAY, NBC News, NEWSWEEK, VISNEWS, AP, (Gloven City), WASHINGTON TIMES, TIME magazine, YOMIURI, NDN, NHK, NTV, Fuji TV, TBN, ASAHI, NIHON KEZAI, Thai TV, BBC TV, TFI TV, Radio Holland, LE MONDE, AFP, UPI, BANGKOK POST, TVB Hong Kong, SPECTATOR, TIMES of London, LE FIGARO, (RAION), WTN, FAR EAST ECONOMIC REVIEW, (Rising), La Croix, (TAU), Courier, (SEE), KTS, Korean Television, and DIE ZEIT of the FRG. The presence of the socialist community news media included TASS, NOVOSTI, PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, NOVOYE VREMYA, KPL, VNA, Radio Hanoi correspondents, and PAP.

Speaking on that occasion, Comrade Hun Sen opened the conference as follows:

[Begin recording] [Hun Sen] Dear ladies, gentlemen, and friends: First of all, I would like to warmly welcome all of you who have come to cover the seventh withdrawal for

taking part in this news conference. This is the seventh unilateral withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops, the biggest in scope compared to the six previous ones since 1982. This year's Vietnamese troop withdrawal involves as many as 50,000 men together with the entire high command. However, the withdrawal of this large number of troops will not affect the balance of forces on the battlefield, for Cambodia's own forces have been prepared to assume control in all places vacated by the Vietnamese Army.

Allow me to inform you that the evolution of the situation since 1979 has allowed us to define even more clearly the final timetable for the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops from Cambodia whether a political solution is reached or not and whether the Pol Potists forces are completely eliminated or not.

Thanks to the maturity of Cambodia's own forces, Cambodia and Vietnam agreed to withdraw the first batch of Vietnamese troops in 1982. We also agreed with each other to continue withdrawing every year depending on Cambodia's security development. Since then, we have firmly kept our promise, with some variations in the deadlines. From 1984 to mid-1985, both Cambodia and Vietnam kept insisting that without a political solution, the Vietnamese troops would completely withdraw from Cambodia within 5-10 years. However, in August 1985, the Cambodian-Vietnamese-Lao foreign ministers conference officially announced that the Vietnamese volunteer troops would conduct annual partial withdrawals and would withdraw completely in 1990. This shows that we have reduced the time as much as 4-5 years.

The factor making this time reduction possible is the development of Cambodia's national defense forces, especially the success obtained in implementing the people's war, which has generated a national defense movement of the whole people. At the same time, the victory of the 1984-85 dry-season campaign against enemy bases along the Cambodian-Thai border plunged the enemy, particularly the Pol Potists, into disarray and drove a wedge between their forces along the border and inside the country, forcing the enemy to split into small mobile groups to elude our mopping-up operations and to carry on a guerrilla war of much smaller magnitude.

I would like to stress that the three-fourths of the Vietnamese Army [to be withdrawn] also includes the 18,000 troops to be pulled out within the next few days.

Nevertheless, with a desire to implement a national reconciliation policy aimed at pooling human, intellectual, and material resources for national reconstruction, our party and government have put forth the principle of resolving the Cambodian problem through political means. This principle has already been partly implemented through the past three rounds of talks between our side and Samdech Sihanouk, the first tripartite Hun

Sen-Sihanouk-Son Sann summit, and the Jakarta informal meeting. These forums have produced a breakthrough for the political and psychological impasse which had dragged on for nearly 10 years in a confrontational phase. They have also created initial cooperation between the Indochinese countries and the ASEAN countries in the search for a solution to the Cambodian conflict and the problem of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

It is true that the breakthrough in the impasse does not mean a solution to the problem. Many problems, full of complications, still lie ahead, because this conflict has protracted for a long time and many factions and countries are involved in it. The most complicated problem of all is the Pol Pot issue, one of the two keys in the Cambodian solution. A Cambodian solution is possible only after the Pol Pot danger has been averted. The most necessary measure for this is the elimination of Pol Pot's armed forces, the instrument for him to seize power and massacre the people.

The demand for the Pol Potist Khmer Rouge's political and military role in an attempt to achieve the so-called balanced solution or solution on an equal footing among all the parties will not lead to a solution and will not bring about peace to Cambodia but in fact will pave the way for a new civil war out of control and with no limit. A fair solution must first be based on the respect for the Cambodian people's legitimate interests and must be linked to all interrelated issues within the framework of a political solution: the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and the prevention of the return to power of the Pol Pot regime, the cessation of military assistance to the Cambodian opposing factions, and an end to outside interference in Cambodia's internal affairs.

Such a framework for a solution, already laid down by the Jakarta informal meeting last July, was undermined by the opposition parties during the recent meeting in France. This move will only make the situation more complicated and prolong the time for negotiations. Nevertheless, we will do all we can to accelerate the process of dialogue, and we will attend the coming meeting of the working commission of all Cambodian parties and the second Jakarta Informal Meeting.

I thank all of you for your attention, and would like to conclude my remarks here. I am ready to answer the questions you might raise now.

[Question in English by a BBC correspondent fading into Cambodian translation] I am from the British Broadcasting Corporation in London. Can the prime minister, in the context of the efforts of (the United Nations), give us an assessment of [words indistinct] of his talks yesterday with Mr Ahmed Rafiuddin.

[Hun Sen] Yesterday I met for 3 and ¼ hours with His Excellency Ahmed Rafiuddin, envoy of his excellency the UN secretary general. At this meeting, we agreed in our assessment that the evolution of the present situation is very favorable because of some changes in China's attitude, for China has agreed to link the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops with the cessation of aid to the Cambodian opposition parties. I frankly informed His Excellency Ahmed Rafiuddin that China's view is now coming nearer to our stance. China's stance is closer to ours than ours is to Sihanouk's. Our stance and Sihanouk's are close to each other regarding the timetable of the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. Sihanouk wants the withdrawal to be completed by the end of 1989, but we say this will take place at the earliest at the end of 1989 and at the latest in the first quarter of 1990.

However, there is a fundamental difference of views in that Sihanouk has not accepted the linkage between the Vietnamese troop withdrawal and the cessation of outside military aid. In its latest stance, China no longer demands that the Vietnamese troops be withdrawn in June. It looks like China has brought the deadline back to the end of 1989. This is a point that is coming nearer to our stance. The second point is that China has announced that if Vietnam sets a timetable for its troop withdrawal, China will end its aid to the Cambodian opposition forces. The remaining question, then, is how and when to put an end to this aid. This question is negotiable.

I also agreed with His Excellency Ahmed Rafiuddin that there is presently no need to hurry in organizing an international conference, for without good organization such an international conference will only be doomed to failure. A forum that may bring success to an international conference is the Jakarta Informal Meeting and Cambodia's internal forum, which have already set up a working commission. These two forums must create a common ground and forward it to the international conference.

Let me make a special point: Ahmed Rafiuddin did not agree with the call for the dissolution of the PRK regime. This stance might be the opposite of that of the Cambodian opposition side. His Excellency Ahmed Rafiuddin agreed with us that the dissolution of the PRK regime will plunge Cambodia into a state of utter chaos. Therefore, some compromising formula must be found in the period of transition before holding general elections. Chaos must be avoided.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Will your government consider an international peacekeeping force to guarantee a political settlement?

[Hun Sen] The solution to the Cambodian problem necessitates the establishment of an international control. However, since Cambodia is not a losing country like Germany and Japan in World War II, it is unnecessary to bring in a peacekeeping force to keep control over

the Cambodian Government. Therefore, all international control organizations must respect Cambodia's independence and sovereignty and must be placed under the authority of the Cambodian Government. It must not be a force for occupation or control of Cambodia. Its duty is to monitor the implementation or violation of agreements reached and to report it to the Cambodian Government for remedial actions. Therefore, we do not agree to the idea of sending an occupationist international peacekeeping force to Cambodia. We are also thinking about the arming of the international control commission so that it can ensure its own security. If the international peacekeeping force will be brought into Cambodia for the purpose of preventing Pol Pot's return, why then are the Cambodian people not being given assistance to defend themselves against the return of the Pol Pot regime? Why are we being attacked for preventing the return of Pol Pot? Why is the Vietnamese Army attacked for helping to prevent the return of the Pol Pot regime?

[Question in English by NEWSWEEK correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, [words indistinct] in your opening remarks that you will not allow any political or military role for the Khmer Rouge in a future solution. That's number one. And number two, I was wondering how Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan met in Paris [words indistinct] role of the Khmer Rouge. Does your side already [words indistinct] intelligence information on whether Pol Pot is actually doing with the Khmer Rouge or if he does not have an active role. And the third thing, I was wondering, just for the record, can you tell me the number of Vietnamese civilians who are now residing inside the PRK?

[Hun Sen] I would like to tell you that to achieve a political solution, we are willing to accept the Khmer Rouge political organization but categorically reject the Khmer Rouge military role. Concerning the point that Pol Pot does not play a role, as Khieu Samphan said yesterday that Pol Pot has resigned, this is not true. Pol Pot remains the number one man who holds real power among his forces and currently has a code, No 87. From 1975 to 1978, his code was 870. However, after we toppled the Khmer Rouge, the zero was dropped and only 87 remains. He is the real power holder in the Pol Pot forces. In diplomacy, Khieu Samphan has been named number one, but I tell you that Khieu Samphan is the number eight who has no power in commanding forces. But he is sent to perform on stage in the international arena. So that you know about Khieu Samphan's real power, let me tell you that Khieu Samphan is currently deputy to Ke Pok, the former commander of the Central Military Region, who is currently stationed in Trat Province [in Thailand]. Khieu Samphan is in fact just deputy of a regional commander when it comes to commanding forces on battlefields. Thus, the real commanders remain Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, Ta Mok, and Nuon Chea.

Regarding Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, I would like to tell you that the number of Vietnamese residents—who were living in Cambodia before, fled to Vietnam, and then returned after we liberated the country—do not exceed 60,000, which represents just over 10 percent of the number of Vietnamese residents in 1970. Then there were up to 500,000 [hasep moeun neak] of them.

[Question indistinct]

[Hun Sen] A Cambodian solution should lead the country toward becoming friendly with all countries the world over and with neighboring countries in the region. We cannot solve the Cambodian problem if this solution leads to Cambodia being an enemy of Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, China, the United States, or the Soviet Union. One should solve this problem in such a way that Cambodia has relations with all these countries. To increase mutual confidence, it is necessary to put this solution of the Cambodian problem within the framework of a solution to the issue of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Once there is mutual confidence among peoples and nations in this region, no one can take advantage or gain supremacy to serve their strategies in solving the Cambodian problem.

[Question indistinct]

[Hun Sen] The Cambodian revolution, in other words the Cambodian people's task will be done by the Cambodian people themselves. The assistance of Vietnam or other foreign countries is an important factor. However, the factor determining the success or failure is the Cambodian people themselves. That is why we categorically state that with or without a political solution in 1990, the Vietnamese Army will be withdrawn. Now three-fourths of the Vietnamese Army have already been pulled out; only one-fourth remains. This corresponds with the 2 years we have to build our forces to assume the tasks once the Vietnamese Army is pulled out. The best way we have been implementing with success, and will continue to implement, is waging a people's war. We do not have enough budget to build a million-men army. What is most important to us and appropriate with the people's duties is the fact that the people should take part in defending the motherland and their villages and communes against the enemies' destruction. We have got another 2 years during which we should quickly run and race against time.

[Question in English by a foreign correspondent] [Words indistinct] last question. When we were here at the last troop withdrawal, we were advised by diplomats from countries [words indistinct] [words indistinct] we were told that they didn't have enough weapons and ammunition or enough modern weapons to combat the Khmer Rouge at that level [words indistinct] the situation has improved [words indistinct]. Second question, in the event there'll be no political solution, do you think that the world at large will recognize the PRK as the

legitimate government of Kampuchea after the withdrawal of the Vietnamese Army, given that this government was originally installed by the Vietnamese. Do you think that it will be accepted by the United Nations as representing the [words indistinct] of the Cambodian people?

[Hun Sen] I would like to tell you that we have tens of thousands of militiamen in Cambodia. This is the number we have openly stated. It is very difficult to find hundreds of thousands of guns to arm our militiamen. Our solution is combining modern and traditional weapons which can be used against the enemies. It is true that we should provide them with more weapons because this is what they need to ensure the safety of their villages, houses, and families. On the point that whether the world will recognize Cambodia or not after the Vietnamese withdrawal, I think you'd better put this question to those countries which have not yet recognized Cambodia and not to me because this is the right of those countries' governments. However, we realize that they do not recognize us because of the Vietnamese Army presence in Cambodia. So, if the Vietnamese withdrew, how come they continue to ignore us. This is their business.

[Question in English by foreign correspondent] [Words indistinct] free elections are held, in other words [words indistinct] political settlement and free elections are held to everyone's satisfaction, is it your belief that the SPK [as heard] will win a majority in those elections [words indistinct] the situation today? And if the SPK [as heard] did win a majority in those elections, would there be any need for a coalition government at that point?

[Hun Sen] We should not predict the result of the elections. It is true that there will be four parties taking part in the elections. There is the possibility of one party winning an absolute majority and forming a government alone. But there is also the possibility of no absolute majority in which case a two-party, three-party, or even four-party coalition government is required. We should just wait for the result of the elections.

[Question in English by Jon Swain from the BBC and the SUNDAY TIMES] Mr Prime Minister, there are nearly 300,000 Cambodian refugees on the Thai side of Thai-Cambodian frontier, many of these have been there for nearly 10 years now, and the majority of them would like to return to their homeland, could you tell us please what the government here view is about the repatriation or whether you'd be willing to accept any of them back before a political solution?

[Hun Sen] We have proposed a voluntary repatriation without waiting for a political solution. An agreement could be signed between our side and the UNHCR. We are currently proposing that this organization provides us a list of those who want to return home. In other words, we will accept any number of them without any

conditions. But why this cannot be done? It is because people are taking advantage of the Cambodian refugees. If the refugees return to Cambodia, these people will lose three sources:

1. A political force. Refugees have been used as a political force by the tripartite coalition.
2. A source of men who can be recruited to serve in the tripartite forces.
3. Humanitarian assistance to feed the tripartite army.

Therefore, both Thailand and the three parties strive to prevent the refugees' repatriation. Defection from Son Sann camps to those of Sihanouk is already causing conflict, let alone the refugees' return to Cambodia. While waiting for the refugees' repatriation, we have proposed separating the refugees from the armed forces and move the refugees away from military clashes. On the one hand, this is to protect the refugees and on the other, to let them express their real desire, where they want to go. We would like to guarantee that we have the ability to solve this refugee issue in less than 6 months because our situation is different from that of 1979 when the entire Cambodian population were refugees but we managed to solve the problem. Thus, it is not difficult to solve the problem of some 200,000 or 300,000 refugees who want to return while millions already have a stable life. This cannot be done because of the other side.

[Question in English] My name is (Morris) of the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW. Mr Prime Minister, [words indistinct] question of whether Vietnam will [words indistinct] achieved the withdrawal of 50,000 troops [words indistinct] during 1988. [Words indistinct] now however they say they are not aware of movements of [words indistinct] in December. Could you please tell us, Mr Prime Minister, when the withdrawal happened subsequently to the May and June withdrawal from [words indistinct]. And thirdly, you mention then in June that Vietnamese [words indistinct] being withdrawn. Could you tell us how many Vietnamese civilians and military advisers are left [words indistinct] the end of this year?

[Hun Sen] Concerning the report that I met with General Chawalit [Thai Army commander in chief], I think it is not the story we ought to talk about, and it is not true either. Can this take place while the two countries are confronting each other like this? If it happened, it would be good. I think that it cannot happen at this time, and the time is not yet ripe for this kind of meeting. Generally speaking, although there is no unanimity on the number of repatriated Vietnamese troops, people have acknowledged that Vietnam has withdrawn from Cambodia. Units which have been pulled out in the past were units in western Cambodia. As for the Vietnamese military and civilian advisers, there is none in Cambodia now. However, we still keep professors for teaching in

universities or engineers in some factories. This kind of technicians are not only Vietnamese; there are many others from different countries who are working in Cambodia.

[Question in English by a foreign correspondent] I am a [words indistinct] from London. Mr Prime Minister, after the virtual breakdown of the talks with Prince Sihanouk last month and the extreme difficulties in the JIM [Jakarta Informal Meeting] process, many people now think that progress [words indistinct] the Cambodian problem [words indistinct] specially between the Russians and China. Would you agree with this point of view?

[Hun Sen] The Cambodian problem has both internal and international aspects. Other countries' talks about the Cambodian problem will contribute only to the international aspect of the Cambodian problem. For the internal aspect, certainly no country can solve it on behalf of the Cambodian parties. Furthermore, I know that the Soviet Union and China have agreed that Cambodia's internal aspect should be left to the Cambodian parties to solve.

[Question indistinct]

[Hun Sen] It appears to be the right time for the talks between Vietnam and China. Judging from China's statement in March 1983, it seems that there is already a basis for Vietnamese-Chinese talks now. China then said if Vietnam withdrew the first unit, China would start talking with Vietnam. Vietnam has seven times withdrawn its troops. And the current pullout involves a large number and should be considered as the starting point for Vietnamese-Chinese talks. As for the conditions leading to the Vietnamese-Chinese talks, I think they are getting closer to each other. China wants Vietnam to withdraw its troops, and Vietnam wants China to end its assistance. Therefore, these two conditions can go together. As a key to solve the Cambodian problem, on the international aspect, the Vietnamese-Chinese talks are very important in leading to a solution to the international aspect of the Cambodian problem.

[Question indistinct]

[Hun Sen] I would like to tell you that we have been holding regional party congresses in our provinces and cities. This is normal. It is stipulated in our party's constitution that this should be done every 2 or 3 years. This is also an opportunity to strengthen ourselves to prepare for every circumstance with or without a solution. Concerning Amnesty International, this organization is against us and has been grossly interfering in our internal affairs. We do not want to confront each other in Phnom Penh. It would be better to make this confrontation from London to Phnom Penh rather than [words indistinct]. On this issue, I would like to tell you that our internal affairs are our own. We can decide to let them

have a look at some works because this is our sovereignty. Like all of you, who have come to Cambodia, you can report on whatever you like, I do not stop you. You can report what you see—car accidents, bicycles crashing against motorcycles, no traffic lights, or no hygiene. It is your business. Furthermore, you are witnessing the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. But we would not let you have access to our military secrets.

We have already spent 2 hours together in our news conference. I would like to end it now and thank all of you and the comrades who have followed and taken part in this conference. I wish you success. [end recording]

Hun Sen Receives UN Special Envoy 15 December
BK1712055288 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0435 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 17 (SPK)—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of the PRK, received UN Deputy Secretary-General Ahmed Rafiuddin Ahmed in Phnom Penh on 15 December.

Their talks concerned the evolution of the situation in Cambodia and the region, particularly the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Ahmed Rafiuddin visited Cambodia on 15 and 16 December.

AFP Reports Meeting
BK1712011488 Hong Kong AFP in English 2019 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 16 (AFP)—United Nations special envoy Ahmed Rafiuddin met Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen here Friday, an official Cambodian source said.

Mr. Hun Sen told a press conference Friday that Mr. Ahmed Rafiuddin, the U.N. assistant secretary general who is in charge of Cambodian affairs, believed the collapse of the Cambodian Government would lead to chaos in the country.

Mr. Rafiuddin had agreed that the situation was improving particularly with regard to China, which recently for the first time linked a Vietnamese troop withdrawal with an end to its support of the Khmer Rouge resistance group, Mr. Hun Sen said.

The problem though, Mr. Hun Sen said, was knowing how and when Chinese aid to the Khmer Rouge would end, adding that it could be negotiated.

Mr. Rafiuddin was in Cambodia to witness the final phase of the seventh Vietnamese troop withdrawal from the country.

Vietnam has said it would withdraw 50,000 troops from Cambodia by the end of this year and the remainder before the end of 1990.

So far 32,000 troops have left with another 18,000 due to leave during this final phase, Hanoi said earlier.

Western estimates earlier this year put the Vietnamese strength in Cambodia at between 100,000 and 120,000.

The communist Khmer Rouge forms the main military muscle in the tripartite Cambodian coalition resistance. Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978 to oust a bloody Khmer Rouge regime.

Phnom Penh Said Ready To Sign Refugee Pact
OW1812234788 Tokyo KYODO in English 2311 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec. 19 KYODO—The Vietnam-backed Kampuchean Government under Heng Samrin will shortly conclude an agreement with the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the return of Kampuchean refugees now in Thai refugee camps in border areas, according to a Phnom Penh Government source.

According to the source, Hun Sen, prime minister of the Phnom Penh government, agreed in principle on the refugee arrangement with UNHCR officials in early November when he visited Paris to join talks on the Kampuchean problem.

Kampuchean refugees in the Thai border camps are estimated at 250,000.

Although the basic accord was reached in Paris, the Phnom Penh government demanded an advance list of refugees wanting to return home, leading to the delay in the final agreement, according to the same government source.

SPK Details SRV Partial Withdrawals

BK1912071588 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0450 GMT 19 December 88

["About the Seven Partial Withdrawals of the Vietnamese Volunteers From Cambodia"—SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 19 December (SPK)—Since 1982, considering the incessant development of the Cambodian revolution and to substantiate their goodwill, the SRV and the PRK have conducted seven partial withdrawals of Vietnamese Army volunteers from Cambodia:

—The first one was in July 1982.

—The second in May 1983 occurred with the repatriation of the Cuu Long divisional unit consisting of an infantry division and six brigades with related regimental units.

—The third was in June 1984 and involved the departure of the 690th and 600th Brigades, the 550th Regiment, and a number of independent battalions.

—The fourth was carried out following the resounding victory in the 1984-1985 dry season and was completed by the beginning of May 1985. It consisted of the 52d divisional group made up of an infantry division, four technical brigades, and the following three infantry brigades: the 7703th, 7706th, and 9906th.

—The fifth came at the end of May 1986. Then it was the turn of the 98th divisional group made up of the 8th Infantry Division, 95th Infantry Brigade, and the 37th Infantry Regiment with related units.

—The sixth occurred in November 1987 with a divisional group consisting of an infantry division, two brigades with a number of related units, and the 99th divisional group comprised of two infantry brigades with some of their related units. The PRK invited foreign observers to witness the withdrawal.

—The current 7th withdrawal concerns 50,000 troops. Above all, the Vietnamese Army volunteers command in Cambodia is being repatriated as well. From June to November, the Vietnamese Volunteer Army command in Cambodia, as well as 32,000 troops in diverse units and specialist detachments such as logistic, technical, and so on, were removed from Cambodia.

The last part of this withdrawal consists of various units of the 4th, 5th, 307th, 309th, and 339th Infantry Divisions together with their command, for a total of 18,000 men.

This time, the repatriation began on 15 December and will be completed by the 21st of the month via overland routes and waterways.

Representatives of different countries and international organizations, information and press agency correspondents, cameramen, and those concerned with the Cambodian problem were welcomed to witness the withdrawal.

If the six previous withdrawals already represented half of the total number of Vietnamese Army volunteers stationed in Cambodia, the seventh has further reduced the remaining troops by half. It is a scale of withdrawal with special significance, as the remaining Vietnamese Army volunteers are assigned to remain under PRK directive prior to their departure scheduled for 1990 or earlier within the framework of a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Leaders Pin Orders on SRV Units
BK1812123588 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1123 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 18th—Some 14,000 people from all walks of life in Phnom Penh gathered at the National Stadium yesterday morning to bid farewell to the Vietnamese volunteer army.

Present at the meeting, among others, were Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the State Council of the People's Republic of Kampuchea; Chea Sim, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland; and other senior party, state and government officials.

Ngo Dien, Vietnamese ambassador to Kampuchea, other members of the diplomatic corps in Phnom Penh and a large number of foreign journalists and observers attended.

The ceremony began with the reading of a Kampuchean Council of State's decision to confer Kampuchea's distinctions on departing Vietnamese units.

President Heng Samrin pinned the Angkor Order, Kampuchea's highest distinction, on the banners of the units of the 4th, 5th, 307th, 309th, 315th Divisions of the Vietnamese volunteer army.

Chairman Chea Sim and Vice Premier Bou Thang pinned the Fatherland Defence Order, First Class, on banners of 31 units which have accomplished their internationalist missions in Kampuchea, then Vice Premier Chea Soth presented rotary banners of the Council of Ministers to 31 other departing units. Gifts and souvenirs were presented to the departing Vietnamese units by representatives from various public offices and mass organizations.

SRV Troops Lay Wreaths in Phnom Penh
BK1712055088 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Accompanied by Comrade Pol Saroeun, deputy minister of national defense and chief of the General Staff of the KPRAF, at 0630 this morning, a delegation of the Vietnamese volunteer troops involved in the last stage of the seventh annual partial troop withdrawal and headed by Comrade Brigadier General Le Chi Thuan laid wreaths at the monument dedicated to fallen Cambodian combatants and the monument to the fallen Vietnamese internationalist combatants in a gesture of profound tribute to the memory of Cambodian and Vietnamese ancestors and heroic combatants who had sacrificed their lives in the cause of liberating the nation,

people, and class from the yoke of colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, and the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan regime.

Defense Minister Addresses Troops
BK1812025888 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Speech by Defense Minister Tie Banh at 17 December Phnom Penh Ceremony to confer honors on departing Vietnamese units—recorded]

[Text] During the past 10 years, the comrade cadres and combatants of the Vietnamese volunteer army have made physical, moral, and intellectual efforts, sacrificed blood and flesh, and overcome many complex and difficult obstacles, making a great contribution to liberating the Cambodian people from the extremely cruel, ferocious, and savage danger of genocide created by the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan regime and continuing to provide considerable assistance in the cause of defending and building the Cambodian motherland, bringing to it independence, freedom, and happiness. Now, the Cambodian revolution has matured greatly and has entered a new historic stage in which the Cambodian revolution itself must assume the task of defending its own motherland and protecting its own revolutionary gains from the position of strength made possible by the Cambodia-Vietnam-Laos special militant alliance.

In fulfilling your internationalist mission in our country, despite many difficulties, complications, tests, and trials, you have endured them all and overcome them all. Your attitude and gestures have benefited the Cambodian people and promoted the time-honored bonds of special militant solidarity between our two nations. They are in line with the excellent traditions of the heroic VPA.

The party, government, people, and People's Armed Forces of Cambodia will always remember and feel grateful for the precious and unmatched sacrifices made by all of you and your families to the Cambodian revolution, the Cambodian people, and the Cambodian nation. Your precious examples of heroism are treasured forever in the hearts of my soldiers and people. They will be forever the model for my soldiers and people to emulate.

The presence of the Vietnamese troops over the past years constitutes an important determining factor necessary for the rebirth of the Cambodian nation and the preservation of Cambodia's territorial integrity to the present day. The progress of the Cambodian motherland and the hope and happiness of the Cambodian people have been made possible by your assistance. This has created favorable conditions for the Cambodian party, people, and People's Revolutionary Armed Forces to advance toward maturity and self-reliance, and this also constitutes a factor enabling the Vietnamese volunteer

army to successfully complete its proletarian internationalist mission in Cambodia and to gradually proceed with its repatriation. This year's withdrawal is bigger in scale than the previous ones, and the repatriation will be finished once and for all in 1990.

This development results from the all-out efforts of the Cambodian party, Armed Forces, and people in coordination with the effective assistance of the international community. The Cambodian party, government, Army, and people most warmly welcome your effective assistance. At the same time, with a heavy heart, the Cambodian party, government, Army, and people will miss all of you involved in the repatriation. Your departure will certainly leave behind deep feelings for all the outstanding feats you made in the struggle for my motherland and people.

The Cambodian party, government, Army, and people have inscribed the good services rendered by the comrade Vietnamese army volunteers in successfully carrying out their precious proletarian internationalist mission in Cambodia. We pledge to preserve and further develop the revolutionary brotherhood and close bonds of solidarity with Vietnam. [applause]

Dear members of the presidium, beloved comrades: The national reconciliation policy and successive statements of the PRK are steps taken with goodwill in the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem. The several past meetings among Cambodian opposition factions have been welcomed and approved by public opinion across the world. However, the expansionist-hegemonist and international reactionaries [words indistinct] in order to defend the genocidal Pol Pot clique, vehemently condemned by world opinion, and create conditions for the clique to return to power and massacre the people again.

My Cambodian soldiers and people pledge resolutely to defend the independence of their motherland and the revolutionary solidarity and to firmly preserve their right to be the master of the country and of their own destiny. As the prestige of the Cambodian revolution is developing and strengthening with each passing day and the Cambodia-Vietnam and Cambodia-Vietnam-Laos relations of special friendship and solidarity are growing steadily and enjoying the wholehearted assistance of the Soviet Union, of fraternal socialist countries, and friendly countries as well as the growing support and assistance of the progressive people across the world, the PRK is advancing firmly along the line chosen by the KPRP. In 1990, the Cambodian problem will surely be solved by the real forces of our Cambodian revolution.

Dear comrades and friends, as we are holding this ceremony to confer the Angkor Medals on the representatives of the Vietnamese volunteer army divisions, the departing column of the six divisions and auxiliary units is proceeding slowly toward the border [words indistinct] leaving behind in the heart of each Cambodian the fond

memories and examples of heroism and deep feelings of affection and attachment. You are the best sons and daughters of the Vietnamese people and you are the hard-to-find friends of the Cambodian people. An old saying goes: A good friend does not come by often. You are our friends in need. You have helped us in our hard time. It is true that you live far away from us, but our hearts are always with you.

I wish all of you the best of health and success. Once home, may you achieve more and greater successes in your new job. [cheers and applause]

Phnom Penh Bids Farewell

BK1912063788 *Phnom Penh SPK in English*
0537 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Dec. 19—Early this morning about 10,000 Phnom Penh people rallied along the Mekong riverbank from the Aonalaom Pagoda to Cambodiana Motel to bid farewell to units of 339th Division of the Vietnamese Volunteer Army which were on their river route back to Vietnam.

Among the crowd were high-ranking Kampuchean officials and army officers including Nguon Nhel, candidate Politburo member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the Phnom Penh party organization; El Vansarat, member of the party Central Committee and deputy defence minister; and Thong Khon, candidate member of the party Central Committee and Phnom Penh mayor.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Kampuchea Ngo Dien, other members of the diplomatic corps in Phnom Penh and foreign journalists were present.

Red banners hailing great services of Vietnamese internationalists in Kampuchea and expressing gratitude to the Vietnamese party, Army and people were hung at many crossroads and the well-wishers with miniature flags of Vietnam and the PRK in their hands waved to the repatriating troops.

At 7:00 hrs, Col Nguyen Minh Chau of the Vietnamese 339th Division cordially shook hand with Nguon Nhel, El Vansarat, Thong Khon, and representatives of the Phnom Penh people.

The exchanges of best wishes were made amidst the resounding strain of songs played by an army music band praising the time-honored fraternal friendship between Kampuchea and Vietnam. Hundreds of school children and other well-wishers shouted slogans hailing the Vietnamese troops' proletarian internationalism in Kampuchea when a fleet of nearly 200 vessels carrying departing Vietnamese volunteers and their equipment on board sailed southward along the Mekong River.

A helicopter with Kampuchean and foreign journalists on board followed the fleet to witness the pullout of the last contingent of 50,000 Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. To date, three-fourths of the Vietnamese Volunteer Army have already repatriated.

Veng Huy, 15, student of the Vat Kaoh Junior-High School in Phnom Penh, said: "I profoundly admire the heroic Vietnamese Army volunteers who came to save us from the genocidal Pol Pot regime and now are helping the Kampuchean army and people in defending and rebuilding our beloved Angkor land. I'm determined to study ever harder to become a good citizen in the new society."

Yom Ol, 27, an officer of the Kampuchean Naval Force, said: "We will never forget the bright examples and heroism of Vietnamese Army volunteers who have shared every weal and woe with the Kampuchean people. They have made great sacrifices and even laid down their lives for the just cause of the Kampuchean people. Thanks to their precious and timely assistance, the Kampuchean Armed Forces have grown steadily and are capable of assuming the tasks of defending the revolutionary gain."

"We are determined to follow the bright examples set by the Vietnamese Army volunteers, and wish the special ties of militant alliance between the parties, governments, peoples and armies of the two countries ever lasting."

Also today, farewell ceremonies were held in Ratanakiri Province to the northeast; Kampot Province south of Phnom Penh, and Kompong Cham Province east of the capital city. Departing Vietnamese soldiers are leaving by land and river through the border check-points in Kandal, Takeo, Kampot, Kompong Cham, and Ratanakiri Provinces.

Bou Thang, Tie Banh Visit SRV Units
BK1812010088 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1102 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 17th—A Kampuchean Defence Ministry delegation led by Bou Thang, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chief of the General Political Department of the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army, on December 16 called on representatives of the six divisions of the departing Vietnamese volunteers.

Speaking on the occasion, Defence Minister Tie Banh highly appreciated the great services of the Vietnamese volunteer troops for the Kampuchean people's national defence and construction.

He thanked the party, state and people of Vietnam for their devoted support and assistance to the just struggle of the Kampuchean people.

In reply, Major General Le Chi Thuan, on behalf of the departing Vietnamese units, profoundly thanked the Kampuchean party, state and people for their help to Vietnamese combatants to accomplish their international mission in Kampuchea.

On the same day, many senior Kampuchean officials including Nguon Nhel, candidate Politburo member of the PRPK Central Committee and secretary of Phnom Penh Party Committee; Sam Sundoeun, first secretary of the People's Revolutionary Youth Union of Kampuchea; paid farewell visits to the home-going Vietnamese volunteers.

Sihanouk Labels Hun Sen as 'Traitor'
AU1712145688 Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT
17 Dec 88

[Text] Paris, Dec 17 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk lambasted Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Saturday as a "traitor" and a "lackey."

Addressing a meeting of his movement, the FUNCINPEC [Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], at Paris' Palais des Congres a month after meeting with Mr. Hun Sen, Prince Sihanouk said, "He is a traitor and I have always known it."

"He wants Cambodia to remain forever a Vietnamese colony," he added.

Since they met for the first time a year ago, the two men conferred three times, the last on November 7 and 8 in Fere-en-Tardenois, near Paris.

"I will not meet with Hun Sen again until he accepts my five-point plan," Prince Sihanouk vowed.

The plan calls for a calendar for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and the dismantling of both the Vietnamese-installed government and the United Nations-recognized regime that comprises followers of Prince Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge and Son Sann.

He went on to say that he and Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan had agreed when they met on Thursday to ask for the postponement of a second regional conference scheduled to take place in February in Jakarta.

The first conference brought together representatives of the four Cambodian factions, Vietnam and the pro-Western Asian countries that are members of ASEAN, the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

Prince Sihanouk, who is 67, spoke vigorously for three hours, directly answering journalists' questions for the first time in more than a year.

He said he remained deeply suspicious of the Khmer Rouge, whom he labelled "patriotic murderers" but admitted he could not "reject."

He also ruled out a return as president of the government-in-exile, a post he resigned in July to protest Khmer Rouge violence in Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand.

He said he was not worried about Chinese-Soviet talks on Cambodia, saying "Neither the Soviets nor China can solve our problems. Only we can—by fighting the Vietnamese to the death."

Ranariddh on Vietnamese Troop Withdrawal
BK1712013288 Hong Kong AFP in English 2343 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 16 (AFP)—Vietnam has pulled back between 5,000 and 8,000 soldiers from strategic areas on the Thai-Cambodian border, apparently as part of its announced pullout of 18,000 troops, a resistance leader said here.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who heads the army of his father, former resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, said Hanoi troops had pulled back from several points in northern Cambodia to Siem Reap, 300 kilometers (180 miles) north of Phnom Penh.

Prince Ranariddh told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here Friday it appeared that the troops were being withdrawn to the Tonle Sap Lake area in central Cambodia before moving on to Vietnam.

He said he had received the information from his commanders on Thursday, when the Vietnamese partial troop withdrawal began.

(About 1,200 soldiers left Battambang, 60 kilometres (40 miles) west of Siem Reap, Thursday at the start of Hanoi's seventh annual troop withdrawal from Cambodia, witnesses said.

(The convoy was heading to Siem Reap and Kompong Cham before reaching Phnom Penh, where an official ceremony will mark the pullout on Saturday.)

"The Vietnamese have pulled almost all the 302nd Division as well as large units from the F-5 and 309th Divisions," back to Siem Reap from the northwest corner of the border, Prince Ranariddh said.

He noted that the troops had been concentrated opposite key Sihanoukist positions and that the Vietnamese were keeping their 307th Division in place opposite a northern position held by Khmer Rouge troops under General Ta Mok.

The Sihanoukists and another non-communist faction are allied with the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge in a resistance coalition fighting the 10-year-old Vietnamese military presence in Cambodia.

Some 400,000 Cambodian refugees in camps in Thailand along the border with Cambodia form the civilian base of the resistance struggle.

Prince Ranariddh said the Vietnamese were reinforcing troops in the southern part of the border where Hanoi troops as well as soldiers from the Vietnam-backed government in Phnom Penh face Khmer Rouge forces.

He said 2,000 fresh troops arrived this week in Pailin in the south.

The prince added that Hanoi troops were not moving from the strategic area in northeast Cambodia where the borders of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia converge.

Hanoi announced in May that half the Vietnamese troops in Cambodia, or about 50,000 men would be withdrawn by the end of this year.

Western estimates put Vietnamese troop strength in Cambodia in early 1988 at 120,000 and Cambodian resistance forces at 50,000 with the Khmer Rouge by far the most powerful faction.

Vietnam claims it has already withdrawn 32,000 men this year. Western estimates are that only 15,000 to 20,000 soldiers have left.

Vietnam has promised to withdraw all its soldiers by 1990 but both Hanoi and the resistance seek an earlier political settlement.

Prince Ranariddh said his troops had earlier this month managed for the first time to bombard the airstrip at Siem Reap, near the ancient Angkor Wat Temple which is considered the symbol of Cambodia.

This area is also a major operating sector for the Khmer Rouge.

NADK Spokesman Rejects SRV Withdrawal Claim
BK1912021988 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Statement by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea Supreme Command (NADK) spokesman rejecting the SRV announcement on a troop withdrawal from Cambodia—dated 18 December]

[Text] 1. Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their puppets announced recently that 50,000 Vietnamese aggressor troops in Cambodia were withdrawn in December.

2. This is one of the many deceitful announcements made by the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors.

3. National and international public opinions have repeatedly emphasized their cognizance of the fact that Vietnam only conducted an annual rotation of its troops. Its troop withdrawal ceremony was held just to deceive others. Moreover, fighting is still going on as before on the Cambodian battlefield, both in the interior and on the western border of Cambodia. This tense, continuous fighting is being conducted not by the Vietnamese puppet forces in Phnom Penh but by Vietnamese aggressor troops and the Cambodian patriotic resistance forces as usual.

4. The Cambodian patriotic resistance forces have often exposed Vietnam's maneuvers in holding deceitful troop withdrawal ceremonies in Phnom Penh and turning the spearhead of its army toward the battlefields in Cambodia. At the same time, the Hanoi authorities have sent fresh troops disguised as civilians and in Vietnamese uniforms or in Cambodian puppet soldiers' uniforms from Vietnam to Cambodia. They have also ordered Vietnamese aggressor troops in Cambodia to disguise as Cambodian puppet soldiers. They have hidden these important combined units in areas that are inaccessible to foreigners and far from populated areas and strategic roads.

The NADK Supreme Command spokesman rejects the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors' announcement on this new troop withdrawal for such and such a time as a most tricky and perfidious maneuver to further their aggression and occupation of Cambodia.

This clearly shows that the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors do not in the least intend to settle the problem of Vietnamese aggression against Cambodia through political means.

[Dated] 18 December 1988

[Signed] The NADK Supreme Command spokesman

VOK on SRV Troop Pullout, Split Within PRK
BK1912083588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 December 88

[Text] The ANS [National Sihanoukist Army] General Staff's informed sources said Vietnam has withdrawn a big part of its armed forces and its military command out of Phnom Penh City, then stationed them in the jungles of the northern and eastern provinces, leaving just an insignificant part of them in Phnom Penh. Most of those elements are experts and troops assigned to provide security to the experts. A number of observers assumed that Vietnam's activities could be an attempt to put out of sight of the foreign observers present in Phnom Penh the actual number of its troops.

The report further said that disputes have occurred among the ministers and those who are responsible for different offices of the Heng Samrin regime for they are unhappy with a number of Heng Samrin ministers who totally comply with Vietnam's order.

SRV Troop Withdrawal Trick Exposed

BK1912022088 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Our people in provinces and towns near Phnom Penh told foreign journalists that Vietnamese aggressor troops in Cambodia are hiding themselves in the jungle.

On 11 December, German, French, and Czechoslovak journalists made a trip by helicopter to some provincial towns southwest and north of Phnom Penh and some populated areas near Phnom Penh. Upon arrival in these provincial towns and populated areas, these journalists quietly asked our Cambodian people where had all the Vietnamese soldiers who used to be on national highways, townships, and provincial towns gone? Our people answered that the Vietnamese soldiers who used to be there a few days ago had now been withdrawn to hide in the jungle and that if they wanted to see these Vietnamese troops, the journalists should go to the jungle north of those areas.

This is a deceitful maneuver to fool world public opinion and Cambodian people into believing that the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors have withdrawn their troops from Cambodia. But, the Cambodian people are well aware of this deceitful maneuver of the Vietnamese enemy. They have exposed and told foreign journalists not to believe in this deceitful maneuver.

SRV Troops Said Hiding in Jungle

BK1912022488 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] On 6 December, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors in Cambodia ordered the provincial 7707th Division stationed on Kompong Som-Route 4 battlefield to withdraw from national highways and populated areas to hide in Prek Cha jungle and Kaoh Sampoch east of Ream in Prey Nop District of Kampot Province. They also banned Cambodian inhabitants and soldiers from going near these areas.

On 9 December, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors in Cambodia ordered the provincial 7701th Division stationed on Kompong Thom-Route 6 battlefield to withdraw from Route 6 and the populated areas to hide themselves in remote areas near Ta Preah, Sre Samar, and Prey Kuok villages in Santuk District of Kompong Thom Province. They also banned the Cambodian people and soldiers from going near these areas.

These events clearly attest that the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors have not withdrawn their aggressor troops from Cambodia. On the contrary:

1. They have kept sending more fresh troops to Cambodia.
2. They have ordered their aggressor troops in Cambodia to disguise themselves as puppet soldiers. Meanwhile, they have given Cambodian nationality to and allowed the nearly 1 million Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia and those Vietnamese nationals who have been dispatched continuously to Cambodia to control the Cambodian people.
3. They have sent their aggressor troops in Cambodia to hide themselves in the jungle.

These are their maneuvers to forever occupy Cambodia.

Thus, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors have not withdrawn their aggressor troops from Cambodia. They have only staged a farce to deceive world public opinion.

Indonesia

Alatas Hails U.S. Decision on PLO Talks

BK1812124688 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
1200 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Indonesia describes the U.S. decision to hold talks with the PLO as a very important breakthrough toward the settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict, and hopes that Israel will adopt a constructive stand.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said this in Jakarta on Saturday [17 December] night after returning from Geneva, Thailand, and Malaysia. Alatas said that if Israel does not adopt a constructive stand, it will become evident who really wants a peaceful solution and who wants continued violence and terrorism in the Arab-Israel conflict. Facts show that Israel has defied world opinion, and if it continues to adopt such a stand it will be further isolated. Alatas hopes that the U.S.-PLO dialogue will pave the way for the holding of an international conference on the Middle East.

As for the Cambodian problem, Alatas expressed his optimism that a just and comprehensive solution will be reached in 1989 or on the eve of the complete withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, scheduled for the first quarter of 1990 at the latest. Alatas also pointed out developments which he considers important to help solve the Cambodian problem, namely Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila's planned visit to Hanoi and the PRC in January and February 1989 respectively. Another important development is the planned meeting in Paris which is likely to be attended by the four Cambodian warring factions.

Ties With USSR Said Steadily Improving

BK1912101588 Jakarta ANTARA in English
0751 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Moscow, December 19 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesian Ambassador to the Soviet Union R. Gandul Sugantyo Kusumodigdo is of the view that relations between Indonesia and the Soviet Union are at present steadily improving, in the political and economic fields as well as in the field of trade.

"The progress in bilateral relations has been great indeed, particularly if compared with the early years of the 1980's," he told Indonesian journalists who accompanied the Indonesian aid mission for the Armenian earthquake victims, here on Friday [16 December] evening.

The ambassador is of the view that improvement of the Indonesian relations with this superpower of the Eastern bloc is proper and is not surprising at all, taking into consideration Indonesia's independent and active foreign policy.

According to Gandul Sugantyo, who will soon conclude his term of office in Moscow, how far the improvement in relations will be beneficial for both countries, depends on both sides to put it to the best possible use.

The Soviet Government itself, he added, is at present still hoping for a visit of President Suharto to the Soviet Union.

If the visit could be carried out by the (Indonesian) head of state, it certainly would have a very great and positive impact on the future relations between the two countries, Gandul Sugantyo said.

Murdani Hails PNG Stand on Bilateral Ties

BK1512100988 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST
in English 13 Dec 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Jakarta (JP)—Indonesia expressed its satisfaction yesterday with the fact that Papua New Guinea is no longer easily tempted by rumors aimed at disrupting bilateral relations.

Speaking at a seminar on Pacific countries here yesterday, Minister of Defense and Security General L.B. Murdani said that indications of the change of PNG's attitude toward Indonesia had been noticed since Julius Chan took up the premiership in 1980.

"There have been indications that PNG would like to have its own independent attitude since the second prime minister ruled the country," he said. "How long and to what extent that change will take place remains something interesting to watch, but for us it is enough that PNG politicians are not easily misled by issues that do not make sense."

With the official visits of PNG Prime Minister Paias Wingti early this year and Michael Somare last month, Murdani said it is clear that the relations between the two countries have improved.

"Hopefully, the relationship will further improve for the better, and seeing all these developments, there are good reasons to believe that the past incidents will not occur again, Murdani, dressed in civilian dress, told the audience from the rostrum. Relations between the two countries have often been soured by border incidents in recent years.

Murdani said it is quite natural that the relationship between PNG is very close to Australia, a country which traditionally perceives countries to its north as a source of threats. [sentence as published]

"It is just like the relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands," he said.

From the security aspect, the general said, the Australian people have for 50 years always perceived that threats come from the north, from countries like China and Japan.

"There are good reasons why PNG is close to Australia," he said.

The 4-day seminar opened yesterday is the second seminar on the Patterns of Cooperation Among Countries of the South Pacific Forum and the Impact of Competition of Superpowers in the Region is being organized by the Interuniversity Center for Social Sciences of the University of Indonesia. [sentence as published]

Murdani said the improvement of relations between PNG and Indonesia has also brought along a change of perceptions by countries in the South Pacific toward Indonesia.

"Former Prime Minister Wingti in his visits to other South Pacific countries tirelessly explained about Indonesia, and this has significantly contributed to the change of perceptions among the countries," Murdani said. [passage omitted]

House Speaker Meets With DPRK Delegation

BK1912081088 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] At his office in Jakarta today, House Speaker Kharis Suhud received a courtesy call from a DPRK parliamentary delegation led by (Yang Yong-suk). Kharis Suhud briefed the DPRK guests on the Indonesian political and administrative systems. Kharis Suhud noted Indonesia is confident that the destiny of the DPRK and ROK people lies in their own hands without other countries' interference.

During the meeting, (Yang Yong-suk) said relations between DPRK and Indonesia have progressed smoothly for a long time and expressed hope that they can be further improved in the future. (Yang Yong-suk) also stressed the importance of the unification of the two Koreas. To achieve that end, dialogues have been held between the two sides with a view to removing political and armed confrontation in the Korean peninsula.

Foreign Minister Alatas Returns Home

BK1812051888 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] All factions involved in the Cambodian problem have expressed their readiness to attend the second Jakarta informal meeting [JIM], scheduled for mid-February 1989.

Speaking at Jakarta's Sukarno-Hatta Airport last night on his return from the UN General Assembly session in Geneva and a stopover in Bangkok, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said the exact date for the second JIM will be decided within a few days. Alatas said all factions are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of JIM in the efforts to solve the Cambodian problem. [Alatas recording indistinct]

Alatas said that as a host, Indonesia welcomes every [words indistinct] aimed at finding a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem, adding that such a process shows that all factions are keen on solving the problem.

He also noted that before the second JIM is held in February, ASEAN foreign ministers are scheduled to hold a special meeting in Brunei Darussalam in January.

Sutrisno on Murdani's Retirement From Army

BK1912091588 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0757 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Magelang (Central Java), December 19 (OANA-ANTARA)—Armed Forces Commander General Tri Sutrisno said that the retirement of General L.B. Murdani from active duty in the Indonesian Army was only a formal matter because as a fighting soldier, Murdani will continue to work with the Armed Forces in devotion to the country and nation.

"His retirement is only a formal matter," the Armed Forces commander replied when ANTARA asked him about his feeling regarding the sending-off of his senior in a retirement ceremony of high-ranking Army officers at the Military Academy campus in Magelang on Monday [19 December].

What Gen Tri said resounded with the statement in a banner that was raised at the academy yard which said: "For a Sapta Marga [Military Personnel Pledges] Fighting Soldier, Service to the State and Nation Never Ends."

"We never really retire, for we will always remain together, and as long as we live we will continue to work together. The fight knows no end," Gen Tri said.

Gen Murdani, who entered retirement with 11 other high-ranking officers of the Indonesian Army, said that he and his colleagues were sent off into retirement not by the Armed Forces commander but by Army Chief of Staff General Edi Sudrajat.

Asked for his comments, Gen Edi Sudrajat only said: "I officiate in the retirement ceremony, but comments come only from the Armed Forces commander."

Besides Gen Murdani, those sent off into retirement on Monday were the late Lieutenant General Gunawan Wibisono, Major General Rustandi, Major General Jaelani, Major General Darwanto, Major General Adam Saleh, Major General Cokorda P. Swastika, Brigadier General Hadi Sunaryo, Brigadier General Erlangga Purbokusumo, Brigadier General Wahyu Widayat, Brigadier General Pujo Bintoro, and Brigadier General Willem Sahetapy.

Murdani, who was born on October 2, 1932, in Cepu, East Java, had seen an extension of his active service in the Army for one year before his retirement.

When asked for his comments on the most impressive experiences in his military career of more than 40 years, Murdani replied in English: "Nothing excites me anymore."

Pressed for more comments, he said that everything has almost been quite ordinary—nothing had been very special.

"I had been too busy at the time," he said when asked for his comments on his experience during the Trikora [Three People's Command] operation for the liberation of Irian Jaya.

"This is the last time that I will be putting on a uniform," he said as he invited several journalists for a group picture.

Murdani, who is now minister for defence and security, joined the Indonesian Army as a student soldier when he was still 13 during the national struggle for independence.

In 1950, he entered the P3AD, an Army Officers Education Center, in Bandung. He was one of the 80 graduates of the P3AD who were later received at SPI, the Army's Infantry School. Subsequently, as a noncommissioned officer, he became an instructor at the Army Commando Corps (which has been renamed the RPKAD and now the Kopassus-AD).

As an RPKAD company commander, he took part in suppressing the DI/TII [Islamic separatist movement] and the Permesta [Total Struggle Movement] rebellions.

He also took part in the fight for the liberation of Irian Jaya.

He played a significant role in the ending of Indonesia's confrontation with Malaysia.

For some time, he was an Indonesian diplomat at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and a consul general in Seoul, South Korea.

Later he continued his career in intelligence services in Indonesia.

He was appointed Armed Forces commander/commander of the Command for Order and Security Restoration in 1983.

He was replaced as Armed Forces commander by Gen Tri Sutrisno.

In the Fifth Development Cabinet, President Suharto appointed him as minister for defence and security.

Article Reviews Navy's Combat Power
BK1612085388 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN
in Indonesian 11 Dec 88 p 7

[Article by defense correspondent Atmaji: "Indonesian Navy Enters 'Mine Warfare' Era"]

[Text] Only a few weeks before the Indonesian Navy [TNI-AL] celebrated Armada Day on 5 December, it entered the era of modern mine warfare [preceding two words in English], on par with that of West European countries.

This event was marked by the commissioning of two mine countermeasure vessels [preceding three words in English] bought from the Netherlands by the TNI-AL.

With the commissioning of the two vessels, the TNI-AL now has at its disposal one of the most modern naval armament systems in the southern hemisphere. In terms of the number of ships, it is true that the TNI-AL has not yet regained its 1962-65 "golden era" during which it had a variety of warships, ranging from cruisers, destroyers, frigates, and rocket-launching ships to submarines.

However, viewed from the aspect of technological armament systems, more than half of the warships on active duty in both the Eastern and Western Fleet Regions of the country are less than 10 years old and more than two-thirds of the main warships are equipped with modern warfare systems.

This situation is expected to continue until 1990 and can be seen as the pinnacle in the revival of naval strength following launching of the TNI-AL's reconstruction program in 1968.

In 1980, the TNI-AL entered a period often called the "technological leap era" with the commissioning of computerized corvettes of KRI [Indonesian warship] Fatahillah class (some experts from "Jane's" classify them as frigates because they carry numerous armament systems). Three ships belonging to that class have sophisticated surface as well as accurate antisubmarine warfare capabilities.

The "push-button warfare" system, controlled by a computerized Combat Information Center, has been used by TNI-AL officers since the beginning of 1980.

In fact, the TNI-AL was already well-versed in guided-missile warfare technology in the 1964-65 period with its ownership of rocket-launching ships (the Soviet-built Komar class equipped with two Styx guided missiles). However, due to the changing political situation, the antiship guided-missile system was in service for only 2 years.

When the "Styx syndrome" occurred in 1968 following the sinking of an Israeli destroyer by such a guided missile, the TNI-AL had already decommissioned these missiles.

Only when the TNI-AL commissioned corvettes and Patrol Ship Killers [preceding three words in English], whose main weapons were Exocet MM-38 missiles, did our navy reenter the era of guided-missile technology. At present, no less than 11 TNI-AL ships are equipped with French-built antiship missiles (3 ships of the KRI Fatahillah class, 4 Patrol Ship Killers, 1 DE [destroyer escort] training ship, and 3 ships of the Van Speijk class) as well as the U.S. General Dynamics-built Harpoon missiles. Both types of missiles have proven to be effective in several sea battles in the Falklands and Persian Gulf wars.

Warships equipped with guided missiles have become a new trend [preceding word in English] and more and more Third World countries are putting them into service in line with the progress in technological armament systems. In Southeast Asia, Indonesia is the second country after Singapore (this country has the Israeli-built Gabriel missiles) to introduce guided missile systems into its navy.

However, as far as antisubmarine and antimine warfare are concerned, the TNI-AL is the pioneer in Southeast Asia in mastering the latest technology. TNI-AL ships of the KRI Fatahillah class, Tribal class, or Van Speijk class have antisubmarine warfare capabilities that cannot be taken for granted.

For instance, during the joint Indonesian Armed Forces military exercise in 1981, one of the TNI-AL corvettes escorting the amphibious assault ships, namely KRI Malahayati, was able to detect the presence of an unidentified submarine that was shadowing the ships.

Said corvette is equipped with two antisubmarine armament systems, namely 12-mm Bofors rockets and the FRG-built SUT antisubmarine torpedoes. If the latter's sonar sensing system is accurate, it is capable of crippling a nuclear-powered submarine.

While it is true that the Tribal class frigates purchased by the TNI-AL, namely KRI W.Z. Yohannes, KRI Christina, and KRI Hasanuddin, do not have sophisticated antisubmarine weapons, they can carry WASP helicopters, which can fire SUT antisubmarine torpedoes at the enemy submarine before it can attack our ships.

On the other hand, the three Van Speijk class ships operated by the TNI-AL, namely KRI Slamet Riyadi, KRI Ahmad Yani, and KRI Yos Sudarso, as well as another one to be commissioned in 1990, are able to detect the presence of enemy submarines and destroy them because they are armed with six antisubmarine torpedo launchers and a sensitive sonar sensing system.

It is obvious that the mine countermeasure vessels, commissioned into service several weeks ago, have elevated the country's position into the rank of very few countries that are capable of conducting modern antimine warfare.

The Persian Gulf war shows that sea mines are something that cannot be taken lightly. The U.S. Navy, which has somewhat neglected the importance of antimine warfare in the last 10 years, was rendered helpless against the conventional mines strewn by the Iranian Navy in Gulf waters. One of the tankers escorted by the U.S. ships hit a mine despite efforts by the superpower Navy's antimine units to clear the area. At least one of the U.S. Navy's modern frigates was also damaged after it hit an old Iranian mine.

It is estimated that the U.S. Navy will have modern mine countermeasure vessels (of the Avenger class) in 1990, at the earliest, to protect its naval forces.

Two TNI-AL mine countermeasure vessels belong to the Tripartite class. It is so named because the ships are produced jointly by three countries—France, the Netherlands, and Belgium. Analysts believe that Tripartite class ships are the latest standard for NATO countries in addition to the FRG Navy's Troika class and the Brecon class mine countermeasure vessels in the British Navy's service.

The 588-ton vessels have a main armament system in the form of equipment called Poisson Auto Propulse (PAP), namely a kind of small submarine that can be guided by

a remote control system through a television camera. These vessels are also equipped with a highly sensitive mine detection system that is capable of detecting not only ordinary sea mines (such as in the Persian Gulf), but also sophisticated magnetic and electronic mines.

Current problems faced by the TNI-AL consist of financial constraints and a lack of suitable areas for landing exercises or coastal bombardment during amphibious operations.

The TNI-AL holds major naval exercises twice a year (the latest one was codenamed Armada Jaya XI and held in Kendari waters). In an interview with SUARA PEMBARUAN some time ago, Navy Chief of Staff Admiral R. Kasenda pointed out that each exercise required a great deal of fuel. When a frigate sailing for 24 hours in such exercises needs 40 tons of fuel, it can be imagined how much fuel is needed for the 10 to 15 ships that take part in a 5 to 7-day exercise.

The navy chief of staff said several billion rupiah are spent for each exercise. "That is why I always stress to exercise participants that they must try to gain as much benefit as possible from the exercise," he added. Admiral Kasenda also called on the public to understand that the seemingly enormous expenditure is necessary to ensure and maintain the Navy's capabilities.

Another problem which needs to be solved is the lack of suitable areas for landing exercises. About 10 or 15 years ago, the TNI-AL found it easier to find suitable areas for amphibious landing exercises. "The coast of Bintan Island, which is actually suitable for such purposes, is now occupied by islanders' houses," said a Navy officer.

About 5 years ago, it was still possible to hold landing exercises in Semangka Bay, but now the place is crowded with people's houses. Statistics show that the ideal beaches for landing exercises are also good for human settlement. For instance, while it was still possible to hold landing exercises on the northern coast of the Kendari Bay, southeast Sulawesi, during last September's Armada XI exercise, the place will have become a bustling tourist resort 3 years from now.

There is a "traditional" exercise site at Tanjung Jangkar, east Java, but amphibious landing exercises cannot obviously be held at the same venue over and over again. "To gain useful experience, the exercises should be held at as many different places as possible," a TNI-AL officer said.

Laos

Official Tells Diplomats of Rice Shortage

BK1712115588 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT
17 Dec 88

[Text] Vientiane, December 17 (KPL)—The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, [Irrigation and Agricultural Cooperatives] on December 15, held a press conference to

disclose the state of rice production in Laos this year. Present at the meeting were members of diplomatic and international organisations' missions here.

Sitaheng Latsaphon, deputy minister of agriculture, forestry spoke of the natural disaster effects in the southern provinces of Khammouane, Savannakhet, Champassak, Saravane, Attapeu, and Sekong.

According to him, the latest estimate showed that rice output this year would be approximately 1,003 million [figure as received] tons, representing only 60 percent of the plan. Consequently, the continuous rice shortage would be 375,700 tons—an equivalent to 255,450 tons of polished rice. As drought and pest severely occurred in the rice basket and populated areas as said above this year, damage was more devastating than the previous year in some northern provinces.

In face of this situation, every effort has been made to produce dry season crops based on all available irrigational potentials, said the deputy minister.

In this connection, he said, the ministry will propose the government to call for international emergency relief for these provinces.

Kaysone Phomvihon Views Renovation, Development

Part I of Article

BK1612032188 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Article by Kaysone Phomvihon, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee, carried by undated PRAVDA, organ of the CPSU Central Committee, marking the 13th founding anniversary of the LPDR, entitled: "Renovation and Development"—Part I]

[Text] Part I

After complete victory was scored by the Lao people in their national liberation struggle against the imperialists, on 2 December 1975 the LPDR was founded. The Lao revolution subsequently entered a new period—the period of passing through the popular democratic system to socialism. Since then, our country has begun a new page in history. An issue faced by our party and Lao people was to choose a path for taking our country to march forward under the new historical and epochal conditions. First of all, we had to clearly understand our starting point in order to know where we would start. At the same time, we had to clearly understand the goal and the conditions which would facilitate our advance toward that goal.

Laos is one of the most underdeveloped countries in the world. Moreover, at times, its name does not even exist as a country on the world map. In the past, the evolution of Lao society had not yet even passed through the era of regional feudalists when it was put under the domination

of the external feudalists and imperialists. During the period of colonization under the rule of the old colonialists, and, subsequently, the new ones, Laos began national development while basically still a colony in which no large-scale exploitation of its resources had yet been carried out. All business foundations dependent on the foreigners halted their activities before the day of liberation. As a result, after the liberation, the characteristics of the national economy were still largely similar to those of the natural and seminatural economies; the majority of the population was largely composed of multiethnic farmers; the property left behind by the old regime was practically worthless; the aftermath of the war was also severe; the standards of the people's cultural and material life were very low; and severe hardships and shortcomings were prevalent. That occurrence clearly indicated that our country entered the new period beginning at a very low starting point in the socioeconomic field.

Subsequently, the most fundamental and uncompromising conflict emerged: a conflict between the level of production forces, which was very low, and the rising requirements of our society. That development called for us to find both long-term and immediate solutions to that conflict. If we failed to resolve that problem, our country's existence would not be secure and its development would be slow—a phenomenon we had inherited for centuries—thus retarding its advancement. Therefore, the development of production forces became our most urgent fundamental economic goal for the sake of the prosperity of our country and the wealth and happiness of the people.

Judging from the above-mentioned low take-off point, it can almost be said that our country had no fundamental factors for development at that time. Thus, was the choosing of a path to advance toward socialism a mere subjective aspiration? We asked ourselves what actually was the economic law of the evolution for advancement under the prevailing conditions of our country. It was true that the starting point of our economy was very low. But through the process of evolution in the national-democratic revolution, our country effected the change from a colonialist-feudalist system to a popular-democratic system. With the complete victory scored through our resistance, the entire administrative power has now been in the hands of the people. The state has become the sole owner of the entire property of the nation and has taken control of most of the important economic foundations which are the heart of the national economy. At the same time, we also received assistance and cooperation from the fraternal socialist countries. That was the starting point of our political-economic development and the fundamental decisive factor for taking the country along the socialist direction. Thus, this means that we did not first wait for the development of production forces before beginning to exploit the fundamental decisive factors through the revolutionary path.

The popular democratic system has created an environment which is most favorable for developing a goods

economy, thus creating harmony between the new production relations and the new production forces in the process of development. That is the economic content of the process of upgrading the popular democratic system to advance toward socialism step by step.

The path for advancement of our country in the present era is a new path for development. Because it is a new path, we have encountered numerous difficulties in defining our goals and in choosing steps for advancement and transitional economic forms, particularly in the initial stage. We cannot use outmoded models on a permanent basis nor can we apply the principles of socialism whimsically. We take the initiative in searching for new changes, primarily a change in the theoretical thinking, by relying simultaneously on the study and application of the scientific methods of Marxism-Leninism and on the selective acceptance of experience of other countries as well as on analyzing lessons drawn from our own behavior.

While entering onto the path of renovation, it was fortunate that we encountered the epochal trends, such as perestroika which was unveiled at the plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee in April 1985 and the 27th CPSU Congress. We rely on renovation for development and on development for continuing renovation and gradually marching forward one step at a time by analyzing the situation in all aspects. We are simultaneously carrying out study and work and are simultaneously carrying out experiments, inspection, and transformation. This is the guiding direction of our activities on the path of advancement.

Part II of Article

BK1612113188 *Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao*
1200 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Article by Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee, carried by undated PRAVDA, organ of the CPSU Central Committee, marking the 13th founding anniversary of the LPDR, entitled: "Renovation and Development"—Part II]

[Text] Part II

In the early years, we placed top priority on tasks of creating administrative power throughout the country and increasingly defending the nation and peace and security with the aim of firmly defending and safeguarding our national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and establishing political tranquillity and social peace and order. We implemented the policy of national reconciliation and solidarity among the multiethnic people while nationalizing the old regime's industrial, trade, and banking foundations and applying the state management system. Our state has paid great attention to improvement of the people's living conditions.

In the process of evolution in economic revival and expansion, we started to organize and manage the state's economic foundations, apply socialist transformation within the private and individual economies, manage and control the marketing system, and supervise the circulation of goods. Most of these activities were carried out at the administrative level. Through the aforementioned economic modification and management, we detected abnormalities because the production and circulation of goods had come to a halt, considerably affecting the people's livelihood. We were forced to examine and acknowledge the problem. Experience told us that we could not act in haste to advance directly to socialism through elimination of the old economic foundation because the private and individual economies and markets were feeding the people throughout the nation and needed to be further expanded under the popular democratic system as they were part of the economic structure of the new system. Since then, we have modified the attitude of left-leaning and haste and stopped abolishing private and individual rights to ownership and markets. We have also modified a number of policies and promoted and expanded production to improve the people's living conditions.

The seventh plenum of the second party Central Committee in 1979 formulated the plan and policy for the modification of economic management. Since then, we have continuously announced the implementation of various policies aimed at granting the right to self-mastery to localities and bases, promoting the production and circulation of goods, strengthening and expanding the active contribution of all economic sectors, and widening trade relations and cooperation with foreign countries. These policies have certainly been fruitful. However, in so doing, we have still been unable to extricate ourselves from the domain of the old vices and old thinking. This is the reason why we were unable to do away with the bureaucratically centralized and state financing mechanism. In 1985, we began to shift to the new thinking and economic mechanism.

At the fourth party congress in 1986, we reviewed the lessons learned during the first decade and acknowledged that despite difficulties and deviations, our country has managed to advance in peace and normalcy, and further expand without confronting any confusion or stalemate. The crucial factor in this is that we were able to fix the intermediate steps to transition and the interval forms of the transition.

In this case, we found Leninist thought on renovated economic plan policy most valuable. The problem that has now arisen is how to apply the Leninist policy of renovated economic planning with the conditions in our country—a pre-capitalist society that basically relies on natural economy. Where should we start? From our practical deeds, we have come to the conclusion that conditions have provided the initial decision for the transitional steps—we must start by gradually changing a natural economy to a commodity economy.

In this context, we must know how to apply Leninist thought on the shifting of democratic revolution to socialist revolution because the task of national and democratic revolution in our country does not end soon after victory has been achieved. The national revolution must be carried out and fulfilled after the seizure of nationwide administrative power. This is the top priority task in the early years.

As for the democratic tasks, including in economic, political, and social areas, in the process of resistance we did not succeed to any great extent except for basic reforms in some aspects in liberated areas. Therefore, we must continue these tasks in the new period. We must start from improving and renovating the popular democratic system so as to satisfy immediate necessary requirements and create the basic factors facilitating the advance from a popular democratic system to a socialist system step by step through several transitional steps at intervals.

Utilizing genuine new thinking, in 1988 the fifth and sixth plenary sessions of the party Central Committee analysed the details of the fourth party congress resolutions and effected new, comprehensive changes in different spheres. There is a new change in the economic structure that is aimed at changing the natural economy to a commodity economy. A new change of the management mechanism is aimed at eliminating the bureaucratically centralized and state-financed mechanism, and embracing the complete business autonomy mechanism. And a new change in foreign policy of aims at peaceful coexistence and opening the door to the outside.

The process of effecting the new changes is based on the foundation of change of thinking, change of organizational and personnel apparatuses, and change in working methods and forms that is aimed at enhancing the role and efficiency of the party and state leadership and management, strengthening and expanding democracy in the entire social life. The aforementioned new comprehensive changes are opening new expansion in our country, that is the expansion of the popular democratic system toward socialism step by step through state capitalism. Leninist thought concerning the policy of renovated economic planning once again illuminates the path for us to move ahead.

Philippines

Ramos Opposed To 'Abrupt Abolition' of Bases
*HK1812045988 Quezon City Sports Radio 738
in English 0400 GMT 18 Dec 88*

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos has reiterated his position on the gradual phase-out of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines. Speaking in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, Ramos said, however, that the phase-out must be done in a manner that will not set back the economic development of the country.

The defense chief said an abrupt abolition of the bases will only mean radical changes in the country. He added that the Philippines is still facing a huge foreign debt and threats of insurgency.

Ramos said the economic and security benefits that the U.S. bases provide the country should be taken into account in line with any plans to abolish the American bases.

Warmer Relations With Soviets Proposed

*HK1912051788 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 19 Dec 88 pp 1, 13*

[Text] Congress and executive department leaders said yesterday that warmer relations with the Soviet Union need not prejudice the country's ties with the United States.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus and Rep. Jose de Venecia (LDP [Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino—Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Pangasinan), co-chairman of the House of Representatives foreign affairs committee, agreed to lead a national consensus to remove the anti-Soviet bias as an "outmoded diplomatic stance" and said an initial major step can be made by banishing the perception of hostility toward the Soviet Union.

The position was endorsed by the "Group of 33," a multi-partisan bloc headed by Assistant Majority Floor Leader Victorico Chaves, as well as Assistant Majority Floor Leader Raul Roco, Rep. Renato Unico (LDP, Camarines Norte), Rep. Amado Bagatsing (LDP, Manila), and Rep. Alberto Lopez (LDP, Iloilo) who said that a continuing indifference toward socialist nations blocks national growth.

De Venecia said this "new and developing position" should be impressed in particular on the government's "intelligence community" which, he said, is the stronghold of prejudice against the Soviet Union and the socialist countries.

The Pangasinan lawmaker said many Soviet officials and technicians applying for entry visas to pursue possible bilateral economic projects have been turned down by intelligence agencies on grounds of "national security."

Manglapus joined the congressmen in proposing a legislative-executive conference to stress that the "Cold War is no longer raging" and that there is not only a "thaw" but also a "warming up" of Philippine-Soviet relations.

De Venecia said Manglapus should preside over the meeting with the intelligence community in his position as foreign minister and "elder statesman" as well as a track record dating back to his days as foreign undersecretary at the height of the Cold War in the '50s.

This takes on urgency, De Venecia said, as the nation prepares for the official visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

De Venecia said a Congress-approved bill he authored proposes a \$1-billion countertrade program with the Soviet Union, China, Eastern Europe, and Indochina (Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea) states to embody the spirit of this new diplomatic position.

The proposal seeks to tap oil produced by the Soviet Union and China as the "lead commodity" to achieve "incremental exports in new markets" as a means to reduce the \$30-billion foreign debt.

De Venecia said the measure has been submitted for President Aquino's signature into law, an act that paves the way for the arrival of Shevardnadze.

He cited the urgency of socialist countertrade, saying this barter transaction needs no trade credits with banks and other international institutions.

Of the \$28.6-billion foreign credit, 10 percent or \$2 billion is in trade credits, De Venecia said.

Senate President Jovito R. Salonga and Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. have sent parliamentary delegations to the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries over the last two years to stress the changing diplomatic posture of the government, he said.

Other legislative leaders supporting an end to the "Cold War" include Senators Leticia Ramos Shahani, Senate foreign relations committee chairman; Mitra, Speaker Pro Tempore Antonio Cuenco, Majority Floor Leader Francisco Sumulong, Rep. Margarito Teves, chairman of the House economic affairs committee; Rep. Cornelio Villareal, head of the House foreign affairs committee; Rep. Jaime Lopez, and Rep. Gualberto Lumauig, both committee vice chairmen.

The lawmakers said the "age of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev," ushering in "perestroika" (reforms) and "glasnost" (openness), requires matching initiatives in the U.S. Europe, and Asia, including the Philippines.

Editorial on Economic Cooperation With USSR
*HK1912051588 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 19 Dec 88 p 4*

[Editorial: "Trade Links With Soviets Welcome"]

[Text] The visit this week by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is a continuation of the Soviet diplomatic offensive aimed at expanding its economic activity in the Pacific Rim region.

Shevardnadze has visited several ASEAN capitals in the effort to expand economic relations with them, with priority given to Indonesia, followed by the Philippines.

Under the reformist leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, Moscow has upgraded the importance of the Philippines as a target of this offensive, obviously because of the presence here of U.S. military bases and its geographically strategic position in the Pacific Basin.

It is not surprising, therefore, that over the past two years there has been a sequence of embarrassing reports—many of which concern petty matters—about the Philippine embassy in Moscow. The most recent of these apparently orchestrated reports is about the maintenance by the embassy of an alleged “restaurant”—which in fact is a club where diplomats meet for drinks and food. The report stems from ignorance and is apparently inspired by interests determined to halt the growth improvement of Philippine-Soviet relations being pushed by Ambassador Alejandro Melchor.

Anyone who suggests that Mr. Shevardnadze is going to focus during his visit on minor diplomatic irritants does little justice to the larger concerns of Philippine-Soviet relations.

The visit has to do with a.) Mr. Gorbachev's initiative in Valdivostok and Krasnoyarsk seeking the removal of the U.S. bases here, and b.) Moscow's campaign to link the economy of its vast Far Eastern region with the rapidly-growing economies of the Pacific Basin nations.

In his Krasnoyarsk speech last September, Mr. Gorbachev raised the ante over the bases by proposing that Moscow would remove its military facilities from Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam if the U.S. pulled out its bases from the Philippines. This is a significant development because Moscow issued the signal that the bases were no longer a bilateral issue between the Philippines and the U.S. They have been given a higher priority in Moscow's agenda for the Pacific region.

The signal is that the resolution of the bases issue has, in the eyes of the USSR, become an issue requiring the intervention of regional powers and nations deriving benefits—security, as well as economic—from the U.S. military presence in the Philippines.

The other important issue that is expected to be discussed by Mr. Shevardnadze with Filipino officials is the expansion of economic relations—an area in which the Philippines lags in comparison with its ASEAN partners.

Not only has trade between the Philippines and the Soviet Union declined. Worse, the Philippines has the lowest level of trade with the USSR among ASEAN countries. During 1986 and 1987, Philippine exports to the USSR accounted for only about six per cent of total ASEAN exports. In these days when trade expansion is crucially important for economic growth, the Philippines is distressingly neglecting economic relations with a nation which has launched an aggressive campaign to open up its resource-rich Far Eastern region to foreign participation and international trade.

The Shevardnadze visit is a good occasion to review the projects for economic cooperation prepared years ago by Ambassador Melchor. These projects have been placed on the back burner because of opposition from groups raising questions of security. To consider these projects as putting national security at risk stretches the definition of “security” to the breaking point.

The Soviet initiatives seeking a more constructive economic role in the region offer new opportunities for the Philippines to diversify its economic relationships, especially at a time when there is a dangerous and growing trend for protectionism by regional economic blocs. One of the best guarantors of national security is economic strength. Without it, political stability rests on shaky ground.

Lifting Ban on Saudi Arabia Opposed by Some
HK1912080088 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA
MORNING POST in English 19 Dec 88 p 7

[By Mary Ann Benitez]

[Text] Filipino workers' groups have reacted angrily to the lifting of a ban on maids leaving the country to work in Saudi Arabia and claimed yesterday they had been sold out by the Philippine Government.

The ban was imposed in March and the Government said it would only be lifted when a mechanism to protect the rights and welfare of maids was established in each country.

A month later the ban was lifted in Hong Kong and Canada and last month the ban was lifted in Saudi Arabia, which had retaliated by banning Filipino workers except for nurses.

But delegates attending the Asia-Pacific conference on Filipino migrant workers in Hong Kong yesterday, said the ban was lifted without written guarantees.

A Filipino delegate from Saudi Arabia, who asked not to be named, said yesterday the lifting of the ban in his country was “a clear sellout” by the Philippine Government.

“The continued rampant abuse on domestic helpers in the kingdom (Saudi Arabia) is very much alarming because they are not protected under Saudi labour laws,” he said.

He said the problem could have been avoided if the Saudi Government was informed of guidelines and policies which would protect Filipino workers' rights and welfare.

“The recent lifting of the ban without due regard to the maids' rights and welfare is a clear indication the present (Philippine) Government succumbed to pressure from the Saudi Government,” he said.

The Filipino leader also said that no refuge shelters for abused workers could be found in Saudi Arabia, with the closure of the Philippine Labour Department's labour centres.

"What happens now is that 'runaways' seeking refuge at the Philippine Embassy are turned down."

The vice-chairman of United Filipinos in Hong Kong, Miss Marrietta Balaoro, said the two-week limit of stay for maids who broke their contracts still existed despite a promise of a review by the Hong Kong Government when the lifting of the ban was being negotiated.

Fifty volunteer workers and union representatives from Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Philippines, Australia and Britain attended the five-day conference.

Workers May Leave by 1990

HK1912030588 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration [POEA] disclosed that the contracts of the remaining 600,400 expatriates, including Filipinos, might be terminated by the Saudi Arabian Government by 1990. The expatriates will be replaced with native [words indistinct] workers. According to the POEA, the Saudi Arabian Government has launched its fourth 5-year plan to accelerate the process of Saudization.

Envoy to Malaysia Told To Clarify Sabah Report

HK1712053788 Quezon City Sports Radio 738
in English 0400 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus has directed Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Pablo Suarez to get the true picture of the condition of Filipinos in Sabah. At the same time, Secretary Manglapus ordered Suarez to talk to the Sabah chief minister to clarify the reported arrests and deportation of Filipinos in the Malaysian state.

Details of that report from Tony Valencia:

[Begin recording] The president, according to Manglapus, was already informed of the situation and agreed to the diplomatic means being explored by the Foreign Affairs Department. Earlier, Manglapus sent a diplomatic note verbale to the Malaysian Government through Ambassador Emam Mohamed Hussein to verify the reports gathered by Suarez on the atrocities being committed on Filipino nationals in the state of Sabah.

The report of Suarez indicated that the state of Sabah is conducting a house-to-house search to arrest and deport Filipino residents there, but he did not specify the exact number of those arrested. [end recording]

January Talks With Malaysia To Cover Spratlys

HK1912023388 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] The Philippines will start talks with the Malaysian Government next month over their common border, which will include the Spratly Islands. Initial talks will be conducted at the technical level to pave the way for future discussions on the ministerial level. The overlapping claims over some islands comprising the Spratly group by at least five countries will also be discussed, along with the border dispute and trade relations between the Philippines and Malaysia.

In a related report, Brigadier General Napoleon Angeles, Western Command commander, reported to Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos on the current military operations protecting the country's territorial boundaries. [Words indistinct] report shows there are logistic (?runs) and defense buildups by the other claimant countries on the Kalayaan group of islands [Philippine name for Spratlys]. Military reports also say unidentified aircraft were sighted over Kalayaan recently. A Vietnamese boat also ran aground in the vicinity of Southampton Reef in Kalayaan.

Belgian Priest Abducted; Another Priest Wounded

HK1912024988 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] A Belgian priest has been abducted and another shot and wounded by unknown men in Kalinga-Apayao. Congressman William (Claver) said Father Leo Vanderwinkle, a Roman Catholic parish priest of Labuagan Town, was seized by armed men at a village near Tanudan town on November 22 and has not been seen since then. Local farmers found a Caucasian body in a nearby jungle a few days later, but it was not clear whether it was that of the missing priest.

Father Mike (Halterman) [nationality not mentioned] was shot 4 times on Friday as he prepared for the traditional Misa de Gallo, or pre-Christmas dawn mass, but doctors have pronounced him out of danger. (Claver) said: While it is not known whether government militia units were involved in the kidnapping and the shooting, ongoing [words indistinct] that the victims were all against human rights abuses committed by government paramilitary units. He said law and order have broken in Kalinga-Apayao, and paramilitary units have been roaming the provinces' hinterlands.

Aquino Interviewed on Cease-Fire, Malaysia

HK1612091188 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 16 Dec 1988

[Text] President Corazon Aquino will announce before Christmas if a moratorium between the government and the rebels will be enforced.

In an interview at Malacanang, the president said she is only waiting for final recommendations from the military and from other sectors regarding the issue. During the interview, the president also commented on the Abadilla case and on the arrest of Filipinos in Malaysia.

[Begin recording in English] [Aquino] [words indistinct] Anyway, I am waiting for the recommendations of General de Villa and Secretary Ramos, but we will make an announcement before Christmas.

[Unidentified male reporter] Ma'am, did you approve the release of Abadilla?

[Aquino] Well, General de Villa called up yesterday, and asked Secretary Macaraig about it and Secretary Macaraig has directed Undersecretary Magadanal Elma to study it. And so when they told me that they were recommending the release of [words indistinct]

[Female reporter] Ma'am, what about the workers in Sabah? What are you doing about it?

[Aquino] Well, Secretary Manglapus is already instructing our ambassador to Malaysia to make representations and also I think that he called for the Malaysian ambassador to his office to (protest) it. [end recording]

Palace Source Says Aquino May Veto Budget
HK1912112588 *Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog* 1030 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] It was learned from Malacanang that President Aquino might not fully approve the final version of the 1989 national budget endorsed by Congress.

According to a palace source, Mrs Aquino may veto the provision prohibiting the president from adding or retaining those allocations which were rejected by Congress.

Last Friday night, the Senate and the House agreed to slash by P [pesos] 1 billion the P227 billion budget programmed outlay.

According to the GMA source in Malacanang, if this provision is not vetoed, the president will become powerless at a time when there is a need for more funds for calamities or for foreign assisted projects.

Meanwhile, Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague said that the cabinet will study the needed changes in the program of various departments as a result of the budget cut.

[Begin Carague recording in English] What we will merely do is point out to the president the differences between what she submitted to Congress, and what Congress has finally approved for her signature so that she can decide on whether the deviations are something with which we can work. [end recording]

Ramos Escapes Unhurt in Plane Accident

HK1912075588 *Hong Kong AFP in English* 0751 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Catarman, Philippines, Dec 19 (AFP)—Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos escaped unhurt Monday when his plane [as received] went out of control and caught fire as it landed in the eastern Philippines, the pilot said.

The F-28 Fokker, with Mr. Ramos and 17 other people aboard, had just landed at the airport at Catarman on Samar Island when its wheels swerved and hit a mound of sand on the runway, Captain Virgilio Santos told reporters.

The pilot ordered the passengers to disembark after he saw smoke coming out of the cockpit.

All the passengers got out of the plane safely before it caught fire, the pilot added.

(Military spokesmen in Manila said Mr. Ramos was touring the Bicol region and nearby Samar in the east of the country for consultations with military field officers in these areas influenced by the communist insurgency.)

Arson investigators later told reporters faulty electrical wiring may have caused the plane to lose control and caught fire. [sentence as received]

Spokesman on Accident

HK1912073788 *Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog* 0700 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos almost lost his life when the helicopter in which he was riding caught fire in Catarman, Samar. Based on initial reports by Ed Pangilinan, Department of Defense spokesman, the aircraft carrying Secretary Ramos and his entourage was on its way to Catarman, Samar, when it encountered rough weather. It then caught fire upon landing and after disembarkation by Ramos' group. Only the pilot sustained minor injury.

[Begin recording] [Pangilinan in English] I can just tell you about the initial reports we received regarding the accident that occurred on the airplane bearing Secretary Ramos. The airplane encountered rough weather while en route to Catarman, Samar this morning. And upon landing, it caught fire. All the passengers, except one of the pilots, who suffered minor injury, were all safe.

May I repeat: All the passengers were safe. And after the passengers had disembarked from the airplane, the fire continued to destroy the airplane until it was totally wrecked.

I repeat: Secretary Ramos is safe and is proceeding to his scheduled activities like, for instance, a meeting with the military commanders there and his assessment of the damages caused by the recent typhoons. Because, as you

know, he is the chairman of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, and as such, he would like to get the opinion of the local officials on how the typhoon victims can be assisted in times of emergency like that.

[Reporter] Are there any reports about possible sabotage?

[Pangilinan in English] I don't know about that. I am just confining my statement to what we received from higher headquarters regarding the accident that occurred on the airplane. [end recording]

Ramos Interview Reported

*HK1912104588 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0955 GMT 19 Dec 88*

[Text] This is Fermin Hani of radio DYSM. We have a report on the plane accident involving the secretary of national defense. Earlier, we spoke to Secretary Ramos and here is our report:

[Begin recording] [Hani] Here we are with Secretary Ramos. Secretary, have you any statement to make?

[Ramos] We thank God because we, the 13 passengers on board the Philippine Air Force Fokker 27 No 602 [as heard], escaped unhurt, except for the pilot, Captain Virgilio Santos, who sustained a slight cut on his head. I think that had it not been for the alert crew and pilot, we would have ended in an unfortunate condition. Therefore, we thank God for saving us from this accident.

We are proceeding with our mission in Catarman, which is to meet with the provincial governor and the military commanders in order to set up a community-defense communication. This is to be administered under the Peace and Order Council with the assistance of the military commanders, notably in the organization of CAFGU [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit] and Bantay Bayan [civilian volunteer organizations].

We were also supposed to go to Hinabangan, Eastern Samar which houses the headquarters of the 302d Brigade, the second biggest of the 5th Infantry Division. However, we have now canceled all further flights due to the poor weather condition. Helicopters really cannot fly through this kind of weather.

We also thank the people of Catarman, especially Governor Abayon and Brigade Commander Colonel Lanusa, for their quick reaction to the accident. They rushed to the runway when the accident took place.

We are here to coordinate with the local officials and see if there is anything we can do to improve the local peace and order situation. We are available for this service.

If possible, please inform the concerned families that all of the crew members—there are five of them—under Captain Virgilio Santos and Second Lieutenant Dwight

Raffy Dehero are safe and sound. We, the passengers—we have furnished the passenger list to the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] by radio—are also well and unhurt. Hopefully, the weather will clear up tomorrow and a Philippine Air Force plane can come to pick us up.

[Hani] Thank you secretary. We have just heard from Secretary Ramos. He has more to say.

[Ramos] We also met in Catarman a medical mission composed of 62 doctors, nurses and other medical workers who came to Samar to serve the people here. They were in the town of Gamay in Northern Samar. They treated more than 2,000 people over a period of several days in Northern Samar. We provided them transportation 2 weeks ago by way of a C130 from the Philippine Air Force. We met them here where they are waiting for transportation to return to Manila. This is part of our government's program to help promote health care and improvement in such underdeveloped places as Northern Samar.

[Hani] Thank you, Mr Secretary. This is Fermin Hani reporting to DZRH-Manila. [end recording]

Investigative Board Formed

*HK1912111588 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television
Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 19 Dec 88*

[From "GMA News" program]

[Text] Secretary Ramos left for Legazpi at 0600 this morning on board a F-27 Fokker purchased by the Philippine Air Force for P [pesos] 8 million in 1978. From Legazpi, the plane headed for Catarman, Samar at 0900 and at around 1035, the plane was forced to crash land in Catarman when it caught fire.

It was learned that the weather conditions were poor and the aircraft overshot the runway.

According to DND [Department of National Defense] spokesman Ed Pangilinan, the real cause of the accident has yet to be investigated.

[Begin Pangilinan recording in English in progress] ...later on, the airplane burned completely and despite the efforts of the fire-fighting unit there to contain the fire, there was...[changes thought] I think the plane continued to burn and was completely destroyed. [end recording]

One of the pilots, Captain Virgilio Santos, was reportedly hurt during the accident, but Secretary Ramos and his 11 companions, including one general, three senior military officers and BULLETIN reporter-columnist Lito Catapusan, were not hurt.

Meanwhile, Air Force Commanding General Jose de Leon, just back from an inspection tour in the north, announced that a special board has been formed to investigate the accident.

Air Force Vice Commander Brigadier General Romulo (Kolopich) has this to say:

[Begin recording in English] As a pilot, I suspect the damage could have been done by the abnormal approach of the aircraft due to limited visibility, plus the wind condition—there might have been a tailwind—which causes an overspreading of the airplane's speed and most likely, they have gone over the runway.... [end recording]

Large Labor Federation Breaks Away From KMU
HK1912045388 *Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan*
in Tagalog 2300 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] A large labor federation has officially announced that it is severing relations with the Kilusang Mayo Uno [KMU—1 May Movement]. According to Godofredo Paseno, Jr, secretary general of the United Lumber and General Workers of the Philippines, the breakaway is the result of the KMU's covert activities. He said his federation's principles are incompatible with the KMU's political agenda. He quoted statements made abroad by communist leader Jose Maria Sison that the KMU is a front for some clandestine organizations in the country. Paseno added that his federation prefers to follow democratic procedures and carry out the duties of a legitimate union and not act as a front for any group.

De Villa Vows To Fight Military Budget Cuts
HK1712052588 *Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English* 2300 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa vowed to continue to fight moves to trim down the budget for the military when Congress resumes its session after the holidays.

The Armed Forces chief of staff told Cebu newsmen that he would fight for a return of a substantial amount of the P [pesos] 3 billion which Congress is threatening to chop off the Armed Forces outlay.

According to De Villa, the areas to be primarily affected in the threatened cuts are the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units, or CAFGU's, and some supplies, programs, and services.

Newsmen Appeal to Military To Desist Harassment
HK1912054388 *Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English* 19 Dec 88 p 3

[From Philippine News and Features]

[Text] Last week's military raid on two radio stations in Lucena City has prompted a national media organization to the military not to harm media men, including those who come out with unfavorable reportage or commentary [sentence as published].

Southern Luzon command authorities had raided the two stations and interrogated broadcasters Joselito Ojeda and Romeo Carmona at the height of military offensives in Quezon Province against the New People's Army (NPA) Mt. Banahaw Melito Glor Command.

Ojeda and Carmona were taken to military headquarters and warned not to broadcast statements issued by the underground National Democratic Front (NDF) and the NPA.

The warning was a follow-up on previous instructions on alleged communist propaganda, either broadcast or printed, made by the government National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and the Armed Forces.

Journalists and broadcasters in Quezon have complained that their coverage, especially interviews with NPA cadres, have either been censored or banned as a result of the military warning. Ojeda and Carmona are reportedly in hiding.

In a letter to the press, commentator and lawyer Ric Valmonte of the People's Movement for Press Freedom (PMPF) reiterated the "non-combatant status" of media practitioners. Recognition of that status, the PMPF letter said, is needed for mass media "to be able to perform its task of acting as communication bridge to adversaries and increasing the possibilities for these conflicts to be resolved or else conducted in a more legitimate and humane manner."

PMPF, a one-year-old association of several Manila and provincial print, radio and TV groups and press freedom advocates, also cited resolutions adopted by the National Press Club (NPC) and press photographers on the status of media men covering the warfront.

The resolution urged both the NDF and other revolutionary forces, as well as government, to assure journalists of protection and security in areas of armed conflict, in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions on the humane treatment of non-combatants and victims of armed conflict; and guarantee their right to freedom of expression and reportage.

In the first 1,000 days of the Aquino administration, PMPF said, at least 17 media men were killed, a "majority of whom had antagonized government officials, military men and anti-communist elements."

Misuari Assails Aquino's Mindanao Autonomy Plan
HK1812044488 *Quezon City Sports Radio 738*
in English 0400 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] In Philippine news overseas, MNLF leader Nur Misuari has criticized President Aquino's proposal to grant limited autonomy to Muslim areas of the Philippines.

In a statement released in Cairo, Misuari called Mrs Aquino's proposal a propaganda ploy. Senate officials said this week that President Aquino would call a special session of Congress next month to discuss a proposal for Muslims to set up their own executive and legislative councils in Mindanao.

Misuari, in Cairo on a private visit, called the proposal another attempt or empty gesture of the Philippine Government. He accused Aquino of sending troops to Muslim provinces for what he called a secret plan to resume the genocidal war against the Bangsa Moro [Moro Homeland] and MNLF. dd

Thailand

Spokesman Announces Recognition, Support of PLO
BK1712035588 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Thailand recognises the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, Foreign Ministry spokesman Chet Sucharitkun said yesterday.

"We support self-determination for the Palestinian people and their right to return to their motherland," he said.

Apart from the Palestinian National Council's recognition of Israel's right to exist, Thailand also welcomed PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's statement in Stockholm that the PLO had renounced terrorism.

Mr Chet said the United States' decision to open contacts with the PLO was a significant development that could lead to peace in the Middle East.

Thailand, he said, supported moves for an international conference on the Middle East.

U.S. Trade Panel Recommends GSP Cuts
BK1712025188 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Dec 88 p 1

[Article by Phonphimon Kanchanalak in Washington D.C.: "U.S. Panel Recommends GSP Cuts for Thailand"]

[Excerpts] After a marathon meeting lasting more than three hours last night, the United States Trade Policy Review Group decided to recommend that Thailand's benefits under the Generalised System of Preferences [GSP] be cut after considering several options ranging from no cuts to substantial cuts.

An informed source told the BANGKOK POST last night that although the interagency group decided to cut Thailand's benefits, "the cut will be only minimal."

The source refused to disclose how much of the country's benefits would be cut since U.S. President Ronald Reagan had not yet been informed.

The source said, however, that the recommended cuts would not take immediate effect, adding the percentage cut would depend on whether Thailand honours its verbal commitment given to U.S. negotiators.

Thai negotiators said that if the U.S. joins the Berne Convention it would be afforded national treatment for copyrighted works. The U.S. is scheduled to join the Berne Convention in March next year.

The source also said that Thailand had agreed to implement temporary measures to protect pharmaceuticals in April.

The source said there is a "timeframe" before action is taken but did not say whether the cuts would proceed if Thailand fulfils its verbal commitment or whether further consultations would be held to restore full GSP privileges.

The interagency group did not discuss what specific GSP items would be cut but did ponder the percentage of the cut, the source said.

The source said, however, that "the percentage cut is low." [passage omitted]

The interagency's recommendation, however, is not yet final as it must be submitted to United States Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter before he passes it on to President Reagan. [passage omitted]

Officials Fail To Agree

BK1712033588 Bangkok THE NATION in English
17 Dec 88 p 2

[Article by Peter Maitri Ungphakon in Washington D.C.: "Thailand, U.S. Fail To Agree on Quotas"]

[Text] Thai and U.S. officials failed to reach agreement on quotas for textiles, garments and steel products on Thursday, ending almost a month of abortive talks on a number of trade issues in Washington.

The breakdown in the talks on textiles and garments, in particular, throws into uncertainty the regulation of trade in these products in the coming year.

Officials said there was considerably less urgency in reaching agreement on how Thailand could "voluntarily" restrain its exports of steel products and avoid curbs imposed unilaterally by the United States under the new Omnibus Trade Act.

The two sides could not agree on an overall limit, expressed in square metres, for a broad range of categories of textile products. Thai officials, backed by representatives of the private sector, opposed the overall quota, saying individual quotas on individual product categories would be sufficient.

According to Thai officials, the Americans are said to have insisted on the overall quota, which is included in the present bilateral agreement due to expire at the end of this month.

Officials said the discussions focused on the principle of whether there should be an overall quota rather than on proposed figures for the size of the quota.

Oranut Osathanon, director general of the Foreign Trade Department and head of the Thai delegation for the latest round of talks, played down the uncertainty of the coming months.

Without a new bilateral agreement, trade in textiles and garments between Thailand and the United States will revert to the international rules of the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA).

Under these rules, the United States is required to consult Thailand first, before imposing by agreement or unilaterally any new quotas.

These new quotas are likely to be similar to those of the past, Oranut said, and therefore the Foreign Trade Department will be able to continue allocating quotas to exporters as before.

U.S. officials are said to have "delinked" the textile quotas from the intellectual property rights issues discussed earlier this week. Originally some Thai officials interpreted this as a promise not to take action under Section 301 of the Omnibus Trade Act against textile products in retaliation for pirate copying and counterfeiting in other sectors. They now believe the Americans were simply saying the negotiations on quotas would not be influenced by the intellectual property issue.

In the talks on steel products, Thai officials say they challenged the U.S. right to seek "voluntary" export restraints from Thailand with the threat of alternative action.

The new Trade Act says unless countries such as Thailand agree to restrain their steel exports, the products will be considered to be part of the quotas of countries such as South Korea and Japan, which already have restraint agreements, if the steel was melted and poured in those countries.

If Thai steel pipes are defined by Washington as having come from South Korea or Japan, they would be subject to severe quotas. But Thai officials say they are challenging the interpretation because much of the processing was performed in Thailand.

Kroekkiat Chiraphaet, one of Oranut's deputies, said the aim is to persuade U.S. officials to use their discretionary powers and not to define the steel as originating in South Korea or Japan. The Thai exports are not circumventing Korean or Japanese quotas, he said.

Thai officials also challenged the legitimacy of the U.S. move under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and sought to exclude steel products other than pipes and tubes from a possible agreement.

They proposed a commitment from the United States to refrain from other forms of harassment against Thai steel products, including the removal of retaliatory measures against alleged export subsidies from the Thai government.

Deputy Prime Minister Views Talks

*BK1712054388 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0000 GMT 17 Dec 88*

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin, in his capacity as chairman of the Thai-U.S. Trade Policy Committee, answered questions by reporters about the Thai delegation currently holding trade talks with the U.S. No agreement has been reached by the two sides, but there is news that the United States will cut Generalised System of Preferences [GSP] privileges for Thai products. Phong said there should not be as much concern about the GSP cut as there should be about the implementation of Section 301 of the U.S. trade bill. In the process, the United States will have to consider the matter after scrutinizing the recommendations made by its Agriculture, State, and Commerce Departments, and by the National Security Council, before submitting it to the U.S. President. He said that this should be good for Thailand because many officials in such organizations have good relations with Thai officials. He believes that GSP privileges for Thailand will not be cut severely because the United States will soon have a new government that wants to have friendly relations with other countries. He therefore predicted that the United States may impose light measures.

Phong said, however, that Thailand must improve its exporting products up to world standards because international trade in the future will be more and more difficult, and each country will try to protect their own interests. It is normal practice, and is necessary for every country to do for its own survival.

The deputy prime minister added that in the future the Thai-U.S. Trade Policy Committee may have to separate trade talks into different regions, such as the EC, the United States, Canada, ASEAN, China, and Japan.

GSP Cuts Won't Affect Relations

BK1812014588 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Dec 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] Thailand's Ambassador to the United States Witthaya Wetchachiwa said yesterday he was relieved upon learning that a U.S. government body decided on Friday that a cut in Thailand's Generalized System of Preferences [GSP] benefits will not affect overall Thai-U.S. relations.

In a phone interview with THE NATION, the envoy said the U.S. Trade Policy Review Group (TPRG) formed a select committee to finalize the formula on GSP cuts for Thai goods within a week after a gruelling meeting last Friday morning (U.S. time).

TPRG is an inter-agency body comprising high-ranking representatives from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), the State Department, the Commerce Department, the Treasury Department, the Labor Department and the National Security Council (NSC). Sources in Bangkok said they received a report from the Thai representatives that the TPRG meeting was divided on the degree of retaliation against Thailand after a breakdown on negotiations over computer software and pharmaceutical products in Washington D.C. earlier this month.

The USTR was said to have desired severe retaliation while the State Department was opposed to a cut in Thai GSP benefits. The NSC, the Labor Department, and the White House were reportedly sympathetic to Thailand.

The Thai ambassador said although the select committee has yet to pick a modality on the GSP cuts, it has to operate on the TPRG's decision that they not be deep.

"TPRG agreed that retaliation should not affect Thai-U.S. relations or disrupt the ongoing dialogue between the two government to iron out differences concerning Thai-U.S. disputes on computer software and pharmaceutical products protection," he said.

Witthaya said the interagency body agreed to avoid taking drastic action because it was convinced that Thailand's economy is developing on the right path towards free enterprise.

"I was relieved at the news because our lobbying before the meeting was aimed at damage control," he said.

He said the embassy lobbying began during the Honolulu negotiations between senior Thai and U.S. officials held last month.

The lobbying was grounded shortly before the TPRG meeting on Thursday, which was postponed one day because of a participant's absence, he said.

The ambassador said the selective committee was composed of representatives from agencies "directly related to bilateral trade."

Informed sources in Bangkok said the committee also received policy guidelines that whatever modality is chosen, it should be geared towards inducing the Thai government to widen its markets to U.S. goods and providing intellectual property right protection for U.S. works.

Neither should such a modality should not effect the Thai economy too harshly, according to the TPRG's decision. [sentence as published]

Witthaya said if the selective committee fails to reach a consensus on the modality, USTR Clayton Yeutter is expected to propose two options to President Ronald Reagan—one calling for deep cuts and the other being more symbolic.

In any case, the options will be based on the TPRG's view that they should not aggravate existing bilateral disputes, he said.

He ruled out the chance of the TPRG referring the matter to the Economic Policy Council in the cast of a deadlock gripping the committee. The council, he said, only decides on a policy conflict—which is not the case here.

The TPRG decided to cut Thai benefits under the GSP to send a strong signal to Thailand that the U.S. is serious about protection of its intellectual property rights. This action resulted from the collapse of negotiations between Commerce Minister Subin Pinkklayan and Yeutter on a draft record of discussion, which would have otherwise been signed on Dec 12.

Major disagreements are rooted in the U.S.' demand for ultimate copyright protection for computer software and a Thai commitment to oppose any attempt to legislate a special law to provide non-copyright protection for the software. Another area of difference, concerns the interim administrative protection for U.S. drugs and the time-frame, as well as the conditions, for a patent law amendment to protect U.S. pharmaceutical products available in Thailand.

Chatchai Warns U.S. on GSP Cuts

BK1912002288 Bangkok THE NATION in English
19 Dec 88 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunnawan, reminding that Thailand has been one of the United States' "best allies," said yesterday the U.S. will stand to lose "politically" if it decides to cut Thai privileges under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

He declared that his government will not change its position on copyright protection for computer software and pharmaceutical patents despite the U.S. threat. "We have to be strong...bite the bullet and stand on our own two feet," he told reporters in an interview after presiding over the charity concert at Thailand Cultural Centre to raise funds for southern flood victims.

The U.S. Trade Policy Review Group (TPRG) on Saturday recommended after a meeting that Thailand's GSP benefits be cut. It set up a select committee to finalize a formula on the proposed cuts for Thai goods.

Chatchai said Thailand "will have to fight trade with trade." He said Thailand will have to improve the quality of its goods and bring down production costs to be able to compete in the world market.

He did not say whether the government will help in reducing production cost.

The prime minister said Thailand has been having very good relations with the U.S. "We have been one of the U.S.' best allies. If the U.S. cuts our GSP benefits, the U.S. will stand to lose politically," he said without elaborating.

Chatchai said it would not be right "diplomatically" for the U.S. to cut GSP benefits for Thailand which is a developing country. But Chatchai declared: "Our stand is clear. We have to continue fighting and be self-reliant."

The Chatchai Government has rejected the U.S. demand that it provide copyright protection for U.S. computer software and pharmaceutical patents. Chatchai has said repeatedly that he will not change the position.

He said since computer software was not included under the Berne Convention, the U.S. products are not entitled to copyright protection in Thailand. [passage omitted]

SIAM RAT Views U.S. Threat

BK1612101088 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
16 Dec 88 p 8

[Editorial entitled: "Will U.S. Insist on Cutting GSP?"]

[Text] We agree with Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan that even if the United States cuts the GSP [Generalized System of Preferences] privileges, which means privileges for import tax exemption, for Thai goods, Thailand should not worry much. There is a good example for this. Once in the past the United States cut GSP privileges for some of Thai goods—gems and jewelry—and our goods still managed to sell well without any problem. The GSP privilege for Thai gems was removed in 1987, and subsequently these items began to be exported to the EC and Japan where exports increased significantly.

Looking at the issue from a psychological viewpoint, the fact that the Thai leaders do not about care the GSP cut not only gives Thailand something to stand on in the exchange over amending the law to protect intellectual property but also creates confidence in Thai industrial circles that from now on Thailand will not have to depend on anyone. Although there is a risk that the United States will fight back by implementing Article 301 of the Trade Bill to prohibit the import of Thai goods, Thailand should still test the waters to see if the United States can do that much to Thailand.

Our display of firmness and not yielding to U.S. pressure is not done with emotion but with the need to protect our own interest in the same manner as the United States did in the period of building up its nation. Therefore, even though there might be some incident which does not satisfy the United States, we still hope that the relations between the two countries in other fields will continue to be good.

Time and again over the past 2 decades we have invariably compromised with the United States in almost every field—military, economic, or political—as if Thailand is an underling of the United States. Most of the time Washington takes it for granted that Thailand is well under control and can be told to do anything as a number of Thai officials, who are well acquainted with the U.S., have always responded in a manner designed to please them. Times have changed. Today we are facing a reality that we cannot reject. We have to struggle for survival. We are therefore sorry if our action happens to be counter to that of the United States or brings them some negative effect. We can only hope that the U.S. will take into account our longstanding friendship and not do anything which we might all live to regret. Please suspend the removal of GSP privileges until Thailand becomes one of the newly industrialized countries. Perhaps then a small mouse like us may be able to help a big lion like the United States.

Editorial Praises Thai Stance

BK1912011588 Bangkok THE NATION in English
19 Dec 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Thailand: Coming of Age"]

[Text] With its unwavering positions at the recent Thai-U.S. trade negotiations, Thailand has shown a sign of maturity. In the process of that tug-of-war, it has also started extricating itself from Washington's fold.

It was a psychological boost for Thailand, as well as other developing countries, in its years-long battle, sometimes bordering on intimidation, against the U.S. demands on the protection of U.S. intellectual property rights.

When the U.S. first launched its tough trade-talks measures against its allies and friends, Thailand was caught by surprise and sort of bemused trying to understand the American logic behind its protectionist mood.

At present, to cut or not to cut Thailand's trade privileges given by the U.S. under the Generalized System of Preferences [GSP] is not the problem. Since the end of 1985, the public has been overdosed with the idea that if GSP benefits were cut, the whole Thai economy would collapse overnight. Somehow the truth of the matter is different.

It is a coming of age in the case of Thailand's position vis-a-vis the U.S. In the future, there would be more consultations, more and more on equal terms. Now Washington could not label Thailand as "thieves" when it comes to the copyright protection. Thailand is obliged by international law and bilateral relations to give full protection to U.S. property rights, including computer software, but within the Thai courts' interpretation and without outside interference.

It is not a case of "intellectual vanity" as some have suggested, it is, however, a matter of principle and national interest. It is not a question of Thailand not wanting to give fair protection to U.S. rights, but it is rather a question of trade negotiations, based on mutual interest, in the truest sense.

The recent Thai-U.S. trade negotiations also reflected the government's confidence in facing up to the U.S. With a fully elected government behind him, its premier, Chatchai Chunhawan, is adamant that Thailand will only give due protection to U.S. software under the Thai laws. He pledged not to jeopardize the protection of U.S. intellectual rights. That's fair enough.

Apparently the Trade Policy Review Group has come up with a decision to emasculate Thailand's GSP status. The U.S. government still has to decide to what extent the tariff privileges would be slashed.

Both officials of the Defense and State departments have tried to convince other U.S. government agencies that Thailand is a close U.S. ally and any GSP cut would hurt Thai-U.S. ties politically. What is dangerous, though, could be the temptation in the U.S. that the current trade negotiation impasse should translate into a loosening up of political and military ties.

At the moment there is no sign that the U.S., which was dissatisfied with Thailand's new negotiation style, will resort to these actions.

In the future, Thai-U.S. relations will be healthier and based on equal treatment. The patron-client relations, which has characterized the bilateral ties for the past 150 years, are things of the past. Thailand is ready to be treated as an equal. But the question remains whether the U.S. feels the same, especially amid the present protectionist mood.

Daily Criticizes U.S. on Drug Patent Issue

BK1612123988 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
16 Dec 88 p 9

[Article by Chusat Phitthayasin: "The GSP and the Destitute United States"]

[Excerpts] After World War II, the United States became a superpower along with the USSR, replacing old superpowers such as Britain and France. Not only did the United States become a superpower in the international political arena, but it also became an economic superpower.

The superiority of the United States, which has been labeled the "world's policeman," began to decline when the United States was defeated in the Vietnam war. It lost face, and its prestige as a superpower has almost vanished. [passage omitted]

Yet, it would be all right if the United States suffered only the Vietnam syndrome because this malady could be cured within time. Especially since the United States is rich enough to afford any kind of medicine to cure this syndrome.

Unfortunately, the once wealthy United States happens to also suffer from an unprecedented economic depression. This has sent the United States into a desperate struggle for its survival despite the fact that it has still not fully recovered from the Vietnam syndrome.

It would be all right if the U.S. effort to save itself did not cause trouble for others. But, this is not so. The U.S. effort has caused trouble for other countries, especially those of lesser status than the United States, including Thailand.

A weapon used by the United States to struggle for its recovery from all of its illnesses is what is called the Generalized System of Preferences, or GSP. [passage omitted]

It is generally known that the United States is one of the famous countries producing medicines, and Thailand has used U.S. "pharmaceutical formulas" in producing medicine for use in the country. But, now what the United States wants is that "pharmaceutical formulas" that the United States considers its "intellectual property" should be purchased and not be used indiscriminately. So, it has used the GSP issue as a threat to press Thailand to draft a protection law.

On the surface, one feels that the issue should be sympathized with and fairness given to the United States. However, in fact, when Thailand buys a medicine from Europe—either for use or for study in order to produce the medicine for domestic use—the Europeans who sell

the medicine to Thailand give the medicine's "pharmaceutical formula" to Thailand every time. Simply put, the European countries do not mind giving it to others as the United States does.

No matter what the reasons for Europe giving away pharmaceutical formulas, there is one thing we can see clearly—the advanced science in "pharmaceutical formulas" is "universal" for human beings, whether haves or have-nots, to share and help each other with. This is considered an ethical value of human beings.

However, at present the United States is destroying this value because it has been driven to its wits end.

If we have to buy "pharmaceutical formulas" in the future to help save the life of our human beings, I do not know what to say about it.

In fact, there are still many other aspects of the pharmaceutical patent that Thai pharmacists—who love Thailand more than the United States—should express clearly in order to provide information to remind the Thai Government and people of future consequences. We should not worry about the GSP threat.

In fact, there are several issues in the Thai-U.S. talks over intellectual property protection, such as agricultural tools and computer software. But I raise this issue for discussion because it seems to be the most important one in the negotiations between Thailand and the United States.

Another reason is that the Government has proudly announced its stand by rejecting the inclusion of computer software in the copyright bill. This is a good thing.

This issue will not end easily, and we still do not know what the results will be, especially for this problem.

At that time, we will know whether the Thai Government will respond to U.S. destitution. However, what we know and want to tell somebody is: The Thai gentlemen and ladies who were hired by the United States to be its "lobbyists" for the copyright bill cannot be happy yet, at least at the present time.

Weekly Views Conflicts Within Coalition

BK1812031788 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Dec 88 p 10

[From the "Inprint" column]

[Text] The Government may be unable to survive the political storm despite prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's astuteness in dealing with pressing problems over the past few months, according to LAK THAI.

The fault, says the political weekly closely associated with the military, lies in the absence of unity within the coalition Government. Points of contention are outstanding between the prime Minister's Chat Thai Party and his two main coalition partners—Social Action [SAP] and Democrat, it adds.

If these two parties cannot tolerate the situation and decide to pull out of the coalition, the Government of Prime Minister Chatchai, then reduced to only four parties, will fall for lack of seats in Parliament, it adds.

The key problem with SAP centres on foreign affairs due to differences of opinion between Prime Minister Chatchai and Foreign Minister Sithi Sawatsila, it says.

Cases in point are Indochina—sparked by the Prime Minister's declaration to transform the region from a war zone to a trade zone—and the trade negotiations with the United States affecting Thailand's position on the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP).

With the Democrat Party, there have been three causes for strain, two of them involving Interior Minister Praman Adireksan, namely his conflict with Deputy Interior Minister Trairong Suwankhiri over the transfer of senior police officers in the South and Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun's opposition to his casino plans.

The third strain comes in relations between Deputy Finance Minister Niphon Phromphan against Finance Minister Permuan Saphawasu.

In LAK THAI's opinion, there are signs that differences within the coalition have reached breaking point but for the time being are being delayed by the flood crisis in the South. When the break comes, one way out for Prime Minister Chatchai would be to change the face of his Government to make way for the "Chatchai 2" coalition, it says.

Should the rupture be so violent that Prime Minister Chatchai has to step down, the new "term" may well begin for the "school" of former Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, now Statesman and Privy Councillor, the magazine says.

His return, it adds, would come in the event that political parties cannot agree on a new Prime Minister and a "neutral" person with the qualities of a "professional" is required for an interim.

Gen Prem is in a position similar to that of the late Prime Minister Field Marshal Phibunsongkhram who once fell from the seat of power—during a political crisis—but later was able to return to it.

Gen Prem, who keeps in constant touch with the top brass, has not fallen from power but has merely risen above it for the time being, the weekly says.

Khmer Rouge Violence Said Unchanged

*BK1812044888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0406 GMT
18 Dec 88*

[By Michael Adler]

[Text] Aranyaprathet, Thailand, Dec 18 (AFP)—The word "angka" for many Cambodians evokes the image of a shadowy and deadly authority whose edicts often meant terror.

It was the word—Cambodian for "the organization"—invoked by Khmer Rouge cadres in killing hundreds of thousands of people in Cambodia while imposing a fanatic form of Marxism after seizing power in April 1975.

Toppled by Vietnamese troops in January 1979, the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, now resistance fighters, no longer cite angka in their refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodian border, refugees said in recent interviews.

They use the less threatening word "roath," or government, but the politics this represents are as ambiguous as angka was in the 1970's.

People who fled from the Khmer Rouge and aid workers said the political workings, structure and aims of the feared group have changed little from their days of bloody rule.

The men who made up the angka when it controlled Cambodia are behind the "roath" which runs a well-armed guerrilla force of between 30,000 and 40,000 and refugee camps where some 65,000 people live under rigid discipline, with many forced to work as ammunition porters for Khmer Rouge patrols.

Resistance figure Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chief of a non-communist group allied with the Khmer Rouge, claims they attack Sihanoukist troops, have not changed their ideology and are plotting to regain control of Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge say excesses of doctrine and violence are a thing of the past as they fight to oust Vietnamese forces from Cambodia.

They claimed in 1981 to have abandoned Marxism for more liberal policies. In 1985, Pol Pot, their leader when ruling in Cambodia, was said to have been replaced by the moderate Khieu Samphan.

But refugees, many who have fled Khmer Rouge camps for non-communist sites along the Thai-Cambodian border, said Pol Pot, who is now about 63, still leads the group with Khieu Samphan a figurehead.

Refugees at Site Eight, the most open Khmer Rouge camp, have told of political meetings in which Pol Pot is referred to as Khmer Rouge head.

A senior Khmer Rouge official called Yem reportedly told section leaders at Site Eight earlier this year that Pol Pot stands for patriotism and the nation and is organizing the fight to liberate the country.

Mr. Yem was quoted as saying that the leaders of the other two resistance factions—Prince Sihanouk and Son Sann—are outside Cambodia while Pol Pot is the only one inside the country.

Prince Sihanouk is based in Beijing and Son Sann in Bangkok.

But according to two battalion commanders who have defected from the Khmer Rouge to non-communist forces Pol Pot is based in Thailand's Trat Province, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the Cambodian border.

He conducts one to three meetings there yearly of regimental commanders and other senior soldiers, they said, according to official debriefings.

A commander from the Ta Luon camp of the Khmer Rouge near Trat said Pol Pot presides over the meetings but doesn't look at the notes put in front of him.

Non-communist resistance sources said that a Politburo, grouping Pol Pot, his long-time number two Nuon Chea, Ta Mok, a military commander, Pol Pot's brother-in-law Ieng Sary, Son Sen and Khieu Samphan met more often.

(At a press conference this week in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen claimed that Khieu Samphan was "the number eight" in the Khmer Rouge hierarchy with "no real power commanding forces.")

("The real commanders remains Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, Ta Mok and Nuon chea," Mr. Hun Sen added. A transcript of Hun Sen's remarks at the press conference was made available here).

Pol Pot in July declared that the 2,000 soldiers of Division 36 based at Ta Luon were the elite of the Khmer Rouge, one high-ranking defector said.

The Khmer Rouge recently moved 8,000 people from Ta Luon, where the United Nations and other Western aid agencies have projects, to an independent border camp near a strategic mountain pass into Cambodia.

The move seems to be politically motivated, to keep the Ta Luon population committed to Khmer Rouge ideology and untainted by Western ideas of freedom.

The move is also to create an infrastructure in Cambodia to help the Khmer Rouge win elections, analysts said.

Elections to form a new government from the resistance and the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh government are expected to be a key part of any peace package.

Vietnam

VNA Denies Beijing Radio Report on Intrusions

BK1612150688 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1445 GMT 16 Dec 88

["VNA Denial"]

[Text] Beijing Radio on 16 December reported that during the first 6 months of this year, Vietnamese troops have continuously intruded into the border area of Jingxi County, Guangxi Province, China.

VNA is authorized to reject this report, which is not consistent with the facts.

VNA Reports Hun Sen News Conference

BK1612160388 Hanoi VNA in English 1522 GMT
16 Dec 88

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 16—"By the end of this year three-fourths of the Vietnamese volunteer army will have withdrawn from Kampuchea", said Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, at a news conference held prior to the start of the pullout of the last units of the 50,000 Vietnamese volunteers already announced for 1988. Many Western correspondents were in attendance.

Hun Sen, who is a Politburo member of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, said that this is the seventh annual withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers since 1982, this year involving 50,000 troops together with the high command of the volunteer army from Kampuchea. It will not affect the balance of forces on the battlefield. The control of the places vacated by Vietnamese troops and the overall evolution of the revolution since 1979 has allowed Kampuchea to set a timetable for the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea whether a political solution is reached or not and whether the Pol Potist forces are dismantled or not."

He went on: "1985-90 is a period for Kampuchea to build and consolidate its strength to assume the defence of the country after the withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers. Then, the remaining problem will be the question of the Pol Pot force, the outside assistance and support to the Khmer Rouge and other reactionary factions aimed at opposing the Kampuchean people."

Hun Sen said: "The demand for a political and military role of the Khmer Rouge allegedly to achieve an equal footing among the Kampuchean parties will not lead to a solution nor peace to Kampuchea but only pave the way

for a civil war that would undoubtedly get out of control. A fair solution to the Kampuchean problem must be based on the respect for the Kampuchean people's legitimate interests. It must also be based on the two interlinked issues: The withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers and the prevention of the return to power of the Pol Pot clique, the cessation of outside military assistance to the Khmer opposition forces and an end to outside interference in Kampuchea's internal affairs."

"However", he said, "such a framework as was already laid by the Jakarta informal meeting [JIM] last July is facing a demand for change raised by the Khmer opposition factions at the recent summit in Paris. Such a move will only make the situation more complicated and drag on the negotiations. Nevertheless, the PRK will do all it can to accelerate the process of dialogue and it will attend the coming meeting of the working commission in Paris and the second JIM in Jakarta."

Asked by a BBC correspondent about his recent meetings with UN Secretary General's special envoy Ahmed Raffiudin, Hun Sen said that the two sides had together examined the evolution of the Kampuchean situation including China's modification of her attitude toward a solution. Hun Sen said China's view is getting nearer to the PRK's stance as it has accepted the linkage between the pull-out of Vietnamese troops with the cessation of military aid to "Democratic Kampuchea." If Vietnamese volunteers are completely withdrawn from Kampuchea not later than 1990, he said, then the remaining question is how and when to put an end to the aid to the Khmer Rouge and other factions.

The PRK chairman said he saw no need of hurry in organizing an international conference on Kampuchea and if such a conference is held it must be based on the respect for the Kampuchean people's right to self-determination and the framework of the results of the recent JIM and the coming session of the working commission in Paris.

Hun Sen also revealed that Mr. Ahmed Raffiudin did not agree with the dissolution of the PRK because such a move would throw Kampuchea into utter chaos. However, Hun Sen said, some compromise should be considered before the general elections.

Asked about an ultimate solution to the Kampuchean conflict, Hun Sen said any political solution must ensure the legitimate right of the Kampuchean people who wish to make of Kampuchea an independent and sovereign country having friendly relations with all countries, including Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, China, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Asked by a correspondent of the Hong Kong Television what he envisaged after the total Vietnamese withdrawal, Hun Sen said the Kampuchean revolution must be undertaken by the Kampuchean people themselves.

Vietnam's internationalist assistance is of great importance but it is not the decisive factor. That is why, all Vietnamese volunteers will be repatriated not later than 1990 whether a solution is achieved or not.

About the role of the International Control Commission if it is introduced, Hun Sen said he did not see the necessity to set up such an organization in the country because Kampuchea is not a defeated country like Germany or Japan in World War Two.

However, he noted, if an international control commission is to be set up, its duty is to supervise the implementation of the agreement reached and it must not be an occupationist force in Kampuchea. Kampuchea's internal affairs must be controlled and handled by none other than the Kampuchean themselves," he stressed.

Radio Reports News Conference

*BK1612124888 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 16 Dec 88*

[Text] A press conference on the seventh withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea was held in Phnom Penh on Friday. Hun Sen, chairman of the Kampuchean Council of State and foreign minister, chaired the conference which was attended by some 200 Kampuchean and foreign newsmen. Many journalists coming from the U.S., Britain, and France have arrived in Phnom Penh to witness the event.

Dealing with a political solution to the Kampuchean issue, Chairman Hun Sen stated the best solution can be reached only when there is no danger of the return to power of the Pol Pot clique. The most urgent measure now is the elimination of the Pol Pot armed forces—the tool in Pol Pot's attempt to return to power to massacre the Kampucheans. A fair solution first of all has to take into account the interests of the Kampuchean people and be linked to related issues in the framework of a political solution. The withdrawal of Vietnamese troops must be coupled with the prevention of the Pol Pot clique from returning to power.

Chairman Hun Sen stated that the PRK is ready to continue its dialogue with other Khmer factions in the future, and first of all the established working group of different Khmer factions, and to hold an informal meeting on Kampuchea in Jakarta.

Chairman Hun Sen answered questions raised by newsmen dealing with different issues including the role of the Khmer Rouge, attitude of some countries in the region toward seeking a political solution to the Kampuchean issue.

Chairman Hun Sen said that on Thursday he had an exchange of views with UN Under Secretary General and special envoy of the UN secretary general Ahmed Rafiuddin. The two sides acknowledged the PRK's efforts and hoped that a political solution suitable to all sides would be worked out.

Departure of SRV Troops from Cambodia Reported

Battambang Holds Ceremony

*BK1612155488 Hanoi VNA in English 1532 GMT
16 Dec 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 16—A ceremony was held on the morning of December 15 at the municipal square of Battambang City, capital of the westernmost province of Kampuchea, to bid farewell to Division 309 of the Vietnamese volunteer army in Kampuchea.

Both the secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea provincial committee, Ung Sami and Colonel Phung Kim Chinh, commander of the division, expressed their belief in the capacity of the Battambang armed forces and people to defend their homeland.

Also yesterday, the provincial people's committee held a ceremony to bid farewell to Division 5 of the Vietnamese volunteer army.

This morning the two divisions arrived at Siem Reap Town in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province on their way home. They were warmly welcomed by the local authorities and population.

On December 15, Tie Banh, alternate member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, paid a farewell visit in Phnom Penh to the delegation of the six Vietnamese divisions who are being repatriated.

Volunteers Feted in Phnom Penh

*BK1812154588 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT
18 Dec 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA 18 December—A party was given in Phnom Penh yesterday evening in honour of the departing Vietnamese volunteer troops.

The party, jointly sponsored by the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea [PRPK], the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and the Ministry of National Defence, was attended by Bou Thang, Politburo member of the PRPK Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Tie Banh, alternate member of the PRPK Central Committee and minister of national defence; and many other senior Kampuchean officers and officials.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Phnom Penh Ngo Dien was present.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Tie Banh affirmed the Kampuchean people and armed forces' determination to continue to accomplish all their tasks for national construction and defence.

On behalf of the departing volunteer troops, Colonel Bui Van Mai thanked the Kampuchean people for their warm sentiments towards the Vietnamese servicemen and expressed his belief that the Kampuchean revolution will win final victory.

PRK Defense Minister Praises Volunteers

*BK1712154588 Hanoi VNA in English 1512 GMT
17 Dec 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 17—A ceremony to confer Kampuchean distinctions on Vietnamese Army volunteer units which have fulfilled their international duty in Kampuchea was held in Phnom Penh this morning.

The ceremony, jointly organized by the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea [PRPK], the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Kampuchean United Front for Construction and Defence of the Fatherland, was attended by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PRPK and president of the State Council of the PRK; Chea Sim, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the PRPK, chairman of the National Assembly and president of the KUFNCD, and other party and state leaders.

Representatives of the diplomatic corps and hundreds of foreign journalists were also on hand.

Men Chhan, acting secretary general of the State Council, announced the decision of the PRK State Council to confer the "Angkor" Order, the highest distinction of the PRK, on Divisions 4, 5, 307, 308, 315, and 339; and "For the Defence of the Fatherland" Order, First Class, on 31 support units of those six divisions.

In his speech at the decoration, Tie Banh [PRK national defence minister] said:

"The Vietnamese Army volunteers' presence in Kampuchea over the past years has been an indispensable factor to ensure the revival of the country and safeguard the lasting national sovereignty of Kampuchea."

Tie Banh expressed his confidence that with the special friendship among the three countries on the Indochinese Peninsula and the strong position and constant development of the Kampuchean Revolution, together with the assistance and support from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and friends across the world, the People's Republic of Kampuchea will firmly advance on

the road chosen by the Kampuchean people and that by 1990 the Kampuchea issue will be certainly resolved by the strength of the Kampuchean Revolution itself.

Further on Farewell Ceremonies

*BK1912061088 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 19 Dec 88*

[Text] A farewell ceremony was held in Phnom Penh at 0700 on 19 December for Division 339 and affiliated Regiment No 25 of the Vietnamese Army volunteers.

Comrade Nguon Nhel, alternate member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Phnom Penh Party Committee; Comrade Van Sarat, deputy defense minister; and Comrade Thong Khon, chairman of the Phnom Penh People's Committee, attended the ceremony. Comrade Ngo Dien, Vietnamese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary; Vietnamese Embassy staff and specialists working in Cambodia; the diplomatic corps; and numerous foreign journalists who were in Cambodia to watch the seventh withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers were also present. Tens of thousands of Phnom Penh residents, representing the Cambodian people throughout the country, lined the banks of Tonle Sap River, in front of the Royal Palace, to bid fond farewell to the departing soldiers who were leaving for home by river.

When the ships carrying the Vietnamese Army volunteers stopped at the river port, Colonel Nguyen Minh Chau, commanding officer of Division 339, came on the bank to greet Comrades Nguon Nhel, Van Sarat, and Thong Khon, and representatives of the Cambodian people of various walks of life. On behalf of the party, the administration, and Phnom Penh, Comrade Nguon Nhel wished the departing soldiers good health. He presents gifts from the Phnom Penh people to the troops. The ships carrying Division 339 and affiliated Regiment No 25 then resumed their journey in the direction of Kandal Province, where large numbers of Cambodians were waiting to bid them farewell.

A solemn ceremony was also held in Kompong Cham Province this morning to see off Vietnamese Army volunteers. There, units of Vietnamese army volunteers will leave for home by land routes through Samat.

VNA Reviews Troop Withdrawals

*BK1712081888 Hanoi VNA in English 0712 GMT
17 Dec 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 17—As the Kampuchean revolution has grown up continually, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea have since 1982 effected seven annual withdrawals of Vietnamese army volunteers from Kampuchea.

The first withdrawal was made in July 1982 involving a number of combat units. The second was effected in May 1983 involving the Cuu Long divisional group comprising an infantry division, six attached brigades and regiments.

The third took place in June 1983 involving Brigades 690 and 688, Regiment 550 and some support battalions.

The fourth followed the resounding victory in the 1984-85 dry season, it was effected between April and early May 1985 and involved divisional group 52 comprising an infantry division, four technical brigades, and three infantry brigades.

The fifth was effected at the end of May 1986 involving divisional group 98 comprising the 8th Infantry Division, Infantry Brigade 95, Infantry Regiment 37 and support units.

The sixth withdrawal was effected in November 1987 involving divisional group 94 comprising an infantry division, two brigades and support units, divisional group 99 comprising two infantry brigades and support units.

The present seventh withdrawal scheduled for 1988 involves 50,000 troops and the entire command of the volunteer army. From June to November this year, 32,000 men and the command of the volunteer army, together with many logistic and technical units were repatriated.

The last contingent of the 7th withdrawal to be completed on Dec. 21 comprises units of six infantry divisions: 4, 5, 307, 309, 315, 339 and their command totalling 18,000 men. The departing troops are leaving Kampuchea by land and water.

Nguyen Co Thach on Withdrawal
*OW1812080588 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 17 Dec 88*

[Text] Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, in a recent NHK interview, said that, although it will be impossible to complete the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia by next June as China insists, it will be possible to bring the date as close to it as possible depending on the outcome of future negotiations.

Regarding a proposal for the stationing in Cambodia of peacekeeping forces with the United Nations as their nucleus following the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces, Foreign Minister Thach showed a strong reservation on the possibility of Vietnamese influence being eliminated under international supervision. He said: We are absolutely against it because it is feared to harm sovereignty of the future Cambodian regime.

Radio Comments on Pullout

*BK1712111088 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 17 Dec 88*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The last withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers from Kampuchea for 1988 has just begun. Commenting on this event, here is our radio correspondent's opinions:

According to reports from Phnom Penh, 92 foreign journalists and observers have arrived in Phnom Penh to witness the withdrawal of some 18,000 Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. In June, 32,000 Vietnamese troops withdrew together with their High Command.

Commenting on the current Vietnamese troop pullout, public opinion in Southeast Asia and Western countries has once again acknowledged the fact that Vietnam really is bringing its troops home. The Voice of America on Friday [16 December] reported that some 18,000 Vietnamese troops began their withdrawal from north-western Kampuchea. The American radio quoted Western reports as saying that convoys of military trucks carrying Vietnamese troops started moving toward Phnom Penh from the Kampuchean-Thai border for a send-off ceremony in the capital.

Western diplomats in Bangkok said that Vietnam has shown its sincerity by pulling the troops out. AFP Bangkok-based correspondent on 13 December quoted Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila as saying that he believes in Vietnam's commitment to withdraw 50,000 Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea in 1988.

During this time, the Kampuchean population have been reluctant to part with the home-going Vietnamese Army volunteers. On Thursday, Kampuchean Defense Minister Tie Banh called at the 6th Vietnamese home-going division, which was converged on Phnom Penh for the visit.

On the same day, thousands of Kampucheans in Battambang City, Kampuchea's second biggest city in the northwest, held a send-off ceremony for Division 309 of the Vietnamese troops.

On Friday, Divisions 309 and 5 started marching to Siem Reap Town. Tens of thousands of Kampucheans lined the road leading to the border of Kompong Thom Province to bid farewell to Vietnamese troops who helped them build their houses and roads.

The troop pullout is taking place at time when the Kampuchean people are actively preparing for their 10th National Day on 7 January 1989.

During the last 10 days, people saw on Phnom Penh boulevards military parade drills of Kampuchean armored military vehicles. The monument dedicated to

the Vietnamese Army volunteers near the palace has been decorated to express the Kampuchean people's thanks for their invaluable contributions to the Khmer nation.

Further Coverage of National Assembly Sessions

Deputies Hold Discussions

BK1612143088 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Radio Correspondent Kim Cuc's report on National Assembly deputies' 16 December group discussions—portions recorded]

[Summary] "Today, on their 4th day of work, National Assembly deputies worked in groups to discuss and contribute their views to the Council of Ministers' report presented by Comrade Vo Van Kiet at the opening of the National Assembly session. The views we noted at some group discussions today generally endorse the Council of Ministers' assessment of the country's current socioeconomic situation as well as the orientations for carrying out next year's plan. Nevertheless, aware of their responsibilities, many deputies made suggestions aimed at supplementing the Council of Ministers' report on practical issues concerning our socioeconomic activities and the measures and orientations for overcoming difficulties to stabilize the situation.

"Upon hearing the views expressed by National Assembly deputies from Son La, Binh Tri Thien, Dong Thap, Thanh Hoa, Vung Dau-Con Dao Special Zone, and Lam Dong, we felt that most of them reflected the common desire to seek a way out of the current difficulties in socioeconomic life. Many deputies held that renovation in mechanism and policies has become one of the most urgent demands at present."

Deputy Mao Hong Phuoc from Dong Thap said the state should review prices for the collection and purchase of grain and agricultural food products in many localities.

Speaking about artisan and handicrafts production, a deputy from Binh Tri Thien urged that a relaxed mechanism should be adopted to accelerate the development of artisan and handicraft production.

"Expressing his opinions, Comrade Hoang Truong Minh, National Assembly deputy from Son La, laid stress on the socioeconomic policy for the ethnic minority people in the mountainous region. He held that to unite the various nationalities, we must, instead of making general talk as we did before, standardize the policies toward ethnic minorities. These policies, he said, must be based on the characteristics, circumstances, and living conditions of the ethnic minority people."

At today's group discussions, the deputies also dealt with the situation regarding culture, education, and public health. A deputy from Thanh Hoa said while there is not

enough paper for printing textbooks for schoolchildren, his province has witnessed a seemingly uncontrollable rise in the printing of good-for-nothing local periodicals that cause a drain on the paper supply.

On education, Comrade Nguyen Xuan Trac, also of Thanh Hoa, said education in the mountainous and border areas has seriously declined, and illiteracy has returned although the Council of Ministers has, in its report to every National Assembly session, unfailingly stressed the need to pay attention to education in the mountainous region.

For his part, Deputy Tran Phuoc Hinh from Binh Tri Thien referred to an issue under discussion by the National Assembly—that of school fees. He said:

I endorse the views presented by the comrade chairman of the Cultural and Social Committee in his recent report to the National Assembly. Regarding the collection of school fees, I suggest that they not be collected from level-1 schoolchildren.

On school and hospital fees, many deputies held that considering the current difficulties facing the education and public health sectors, it is necessary to collect them; but this should be done selectively.

Deputy Cao Thi Hanh, representative of the health sector from Thanh Hoa, had this to say about hospital fees:

The Council of Ministers proposes the collection of hospital fees. For the lowlands, I have no objection; but for the mountainous region, I suggest that considering the poverty of the people there, hospital or examination fees should not be collected.

The views expressed by National Assembly deputies at today's group discussions were diverse and realistic, and dealt with urgent issues concerning the socioeconomic situation at present. These views can be considered as fairly important contributions to the Council of Ministers' report.

The National Assembly will continue its work tomorrow.

17 December Proceedings Reported

BK1712123288 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Dear friends: This morning the National Assembly continued group discussions to supplement the reports of the Ministry of Interior on the situation concerning public order and social safety and the reports of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Organ of Control, with the deputies offering suggestions on the measures to be taken.

In the afternoon, the National Assembly convened a plenary meeting at the conference hall to hear members of the Council of Ministers answer questions raised by National Assembly deputies. Minister of Finance Hoang

Quy gave answers about the formulation of the 1989 budget. The vice minister of labor, war invalids, and social welfare gave answers about the plan for resolving the wage issue for the administrative and service sector, members of the Armed Forces, and those eligible for welfare benefits. Comrade Lu Minh Chau, director general of the Bank of Vietnam, gave answers about some issues concerning the operation of the banking sector.

Next, all the deputies attentively heard Comrade Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, talk about the formulation of the 1989 state plan.

The National Assembly will continue discussions at the conference hall on Monday, 19 December.

More on Proceedings

*BK1812104088 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 18 Dec 88*

[Text] The Vietnamese National Assembly on 16 and 17 December continued working in groups to discuss the state plan, state budget, and reports on social order and the activities of the People's Court and the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

On Saturday [17 December] afternoon, the minister of finance; the vice minister of labor, disabled soldiers, and social affairs; and the general director of the state bank answered the questions of the deputies.

Also on Saturday afternoon, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi delivered a speech concerning the deputies' opinions and suggestions and proposed that the latter continue discussing, considering, and reaching precise conclusions on major questions of the state plan and budget.

Communique No 4 Issued

*BK1712151488 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 17 Dec 88*

[Communique No 4 of the Eighth National Assembly's Fourth Session]

[Text] On 16 December 1988, National Assembly deputies continued their group discussions on the state plan and budget and on various draft laws.

On 17 December 1988, in the morning the National Assembly deputies held group discussions on the situation regarding the maintenance of public order and safety, on activities of the juridical sector, on the enforcement of law, and on activities of the Organ of Control sector in 1988.

In the afternoon, the National Assembly held a plenary session at the Ba Dinh conference hall under the chairmanship of National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao. The National Assembly heard a number of cabinet ministers report on those issues raised during various

group discussions and answer questions posed by various National Assembly deputies. Comrade Hoang Qui, minister of finance, presented various matters regarding the state budget revenue, including the tax issue; Comrade Tran Dinh Quang, vice minister of labor, war invalids, and social welfare—acting on behalf of the minister of labor, war invalids, and social welfare, who was away on a mission—presented the wage issue; and Comrade Lu Minh Chau, director general of the state bank, presented various matters regarding banking and monetary transactions.

Next, Comrade Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, gave his views on a number of issues which are outlined in the Council of Ministers' report and which had been raised by the National Assembly deputies during their discussions.

Group Discussions Reviewed

*BK1812134888 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 18 Dec 88*

[Station correspondent Tieu Lien's report on the deputies' group discussions during the Fourth Session of the Eighth National Assembly]

[Summary] So far, the group discussions at the Fourth Session of the Eighth National Assembly have taken place in "an atmosphere of democracy and openness" as demonstrated by the fact that the press media have been allowed to attend any group discussion they have wanted to.

It can be said that "the delegates have straightforwardly expressed their opinions about the reports read before the National Assembly on the socioeconomic situation and maintenance of public security and order, analyzed what the Council of Ministers has achieved or has failed to accomplish in the performance of its duty, agreed or disagreed with various reports, and contributed their viewpoints to the 1989 socioeconomic report that Comrade Vo Van Kiet, first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, had presented before the session."

"A deputy from Quang Nam-Danang Province raised this question: It has been reported that last year witnessed many changes for the better. However, how should we account for the fact that the quality of social life has continued to deteriorate? A deputy from Ho Chi Minh City demanded that the responsibilities of ministers be clearly defined and that everyone should be informed of what has and has not been accomplished."

According to Mai Van Bay, a deputy from Ho Chi Minh City, "The Council of Ministers still shows hesitancy in making decisions on certain issues, such as the foreign currency rates of exchange and tax, thus leading to many difficulties."

Many deputies said that the current tax system was hindering production and demanded that the state stop levying certain types of taxes. According to Chin Hung,

a deputy from Minh Hai Province, "peasants are subjected to all kinds of hidden taxes." He then asked: "Do we hear the people's complaints? Why don't we take measures to improve the situation?"

Also worth noting is the fact that during these group discussions, the deputies made very constructive viewpoints and always proposed concrete measures for rectifying shortcomings.

Much attention has been given to the difficult problems facing the mountain area. Nguyen Xuan Trac, a deputy from Thanh Hoa Province, said that education in the mountain area has seriously declined and illiteracy has recurred.

"The deputies paid great attention to the concrete clauses of the draft amendments of the law on the organization of the People's Organ of Control and the People's Court because these clauses will have great impact on the improvement of the mechanism of our country's economic management at present." The deputies from Ha Tuyen, Bac Thai, Ben Tre, and Ha Son Binh Provinces proposed that the Special People's Court should not be established because this "move will create tension in the society."

The deputies also discussed issues related to the collection of school and hospital fees, as well as the maintenance of public security and order. These issues will continue being discussed during tomorrow's enlarged session, 19 December.

At yesterday's enlarged session, Council of Ministers Chairman Do Muoi addressed the participants after some members of the Council of Ministers had answered questions raised by the deputies.

News Conference on Session

*BK1912053088 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 19 Dec 88*

[Text] Voice of Vietnam correspondents reported that Comrade Vu Mao, director of the Office of the National Assembly and Council of State, held a press conference this morning [19 December] at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall. The conference was attended by a large number of Vietnamese news agency, newspaper, radio and television correspondents covering the current National Assembly session.

Comrade Vu Mao reported on the discussions held by various groups of deputies over the past few days. He said that during these discussions, the deputies, showing a spirit of scrupulous work and a high sense of responsibility, contributed many suggestions to the Council of Ministers report on the implementation of the 1988 State Plan and the orientations and targets of the 1989 Socioeconomic Plan. They suggested measures aimed at implementing these plans, with attention focused on a

number of key issues such as the various targets of the Socioeconomic Plan, systems and policies, the State Budget, the tax problem, and school and hospital fees.

Today, the National Assembly deputies will continue to work in groups.

Reportage on PRC's Qian Qichen USSR Visit

*BK1712074188 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 3 Dec 88*

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen on Thursday [1 December] arrived in Moscow for an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the Soviet Union. Talks were held on the same day in Moscow between the two foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and China.

NHAN DAN Reports Visit

*BK1712101288 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
6 Dec 88 p 4*

[“VNA report”]

[Text] According to TASS, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen paid an official visit to the Soviet Union from 1 to 3 December 1988. This was the first visit by a Chinese foreign minister to the Soviet Union in 30 years or more.

Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, Soviet foreign minister, held three sessions of talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. The two sides discussed the situation and prospects for developing Soviet-Chinese relations and some international and Asia-Pacific issues of common interest.

Reviewing bilateral relations, the two sides unanimously assessed that relations between the two countries have entered a new stage of development on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, and expressed readiness to step up mutually beneficial political dialogue. The two sides positively evaluated the talks aimed at solving the border issue and discussed measures for reducing military confrontation along the Soviet-Chinese border. The two sides were convinced that full normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations will help ameliorate the international and Asia-Pacific situation.

While exchanging views on international issues, the two sides stressed the importance of efforts to accelerate the process of easing world tension, shift from confrontation to cooperation, and create an atmosphere of trust among nations. The two sides noted that the processes aimed at seeking solutions to regional conflicts by political means are being stepped up.

The foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and China discussed the issue of a solution to Cambodia. The two sides affirmed that the Soviet Union and China are concerned about an early, fair, and reasonable settlement

of the Cambodian issue and will contribute to solving the international aspects of this issue with the understanding that its internal aspects will be resolved through the outcome of the meetings of all Cambodian parties.

On 2 December, during a reception given in honor of the Chinese foreign minister, Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, stressed that, in general, the Soviet Union is pleased with the development of cooperation in various fields between the two countries. An important factor for the development of Soviet-Chinese relations is that the peoples of both countries have followed the path of restructuring and reform. The Soviet Union and China are two socialist neighboring countries with a great capacity for mutual beneficial cooperation in the economic, scientific-technological, cultural, and other fields. As for international policies, each country operates independently in conformity with its own interests.

Exchanging views on the Asia-Pacific situation, Comrade M.S. Gorbachev affirmed that the Soviet Union has no intention to harm anyone's interests in this area. The Soviet Union carries out a straightforward and honest policy and sets forth objectives which it deems to be suited to the interests of all countries in the region.

When the Chinese foreign minister referred to the settlement of the Cambodian issue, Comrade M.S. Gorbachev held that there are now bases for resolving this issue. He pointed out the constructive stand of the PRK and Vietnam toward a solution to the Cambodian issue and held that a dialogue between Vietnam and China plays an important role in this issue.

The two sides recognized the necessity to hold a Soviet-Chinese summit meeting in the first half of 1989. The Chinese foreign minister invited the Soviet foreign minister to pay an official visit to China in early 1989.

Further on Talks

BK1712063588 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] According to a TASS report, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen officially visited the Soviet Union from 1 to 3 December 1988. This was the first visit by a Chinese foreign minister to the Soviet Union in 30 years or more.

Comrade Shevardnadze, Soviet foreign minister, held 3 sessions of talks with the Chinese foreign minister. During the talks both sides discussed the situation of and prospects for developing Chinese-Soviet relations, and some international and Asia-Pacific problems of common interest to both countries.

Shevardnadze and Qian Qichen reviewed the state of relations between the two countries and unanimously assessed that relations have entered a new stage of

development on the basis of various principles for peaceful coexistence. They both expressed their readiness to accelerate the political dialogue for the common benefit.

Both sides positively assessed the talks on the settlement of border problems, and exchanged measures to reduce military confrontation along the Chinese-Soviet border. They agreed that normalizing adequate Chinese-Soviet relations would help purify the international and Asia-Pacific situation.

While exchanging views on international issues, both sides stressed the importance of accelerating the process of easing the tense world situation, shifting from confrontation to cooperation, and creating an atmosphere of trust among all countries. Both ministers noted that the process of seeking political solutions to regional problems is being accelerated.

The Soviet and Chinese foreign ministers discussed the problem of a solution to Cambodia. Both sides asserted that the Soviet Union and China are interested in settling promptly, fairly, and reasonably the Cambodian problem, which would help to settle the international aspects of this problem. It was understood that the internal aspects of the Cambodian problem would be settled through the outcome of contacts among the Cambodian sides.

On 2 December, during the reception given for the visiting Chinese foreign minister, Comrade Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee member and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, stressed: In general, the Soviet Union is pleased with the development of cooperation in various fields between the two countries. An important factor for the development of Soviet-Sino relations is that the peoples of both countries have followed the path of restructuring and reform.

The Soviet Union and China are two socialist neighboring countries with a great capacity for cooperation for mutual benefit in the economic, technological, and cultural fields.

As for their international policies, each country operates independently in conformity with its own interests.

In exchanging views on the Asian-Pacific situation, Comrade Gorbachev asserted: The Soviet Union has no intention of harming anybody's interests in this region. The Soviet Union adopts the policy of straightforwardness and loyalty, and sets forth objectives which it considers suitable to the interests of all regional countries.

When the Chinese foreign minister mentioned the settlement of the Cambodian problem, Comrade Gorbachev said that there have been premises for resolving this problem, clearly pointing out the constructive stand of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and Vietnam toward the solution to the Cambodian problem, and saying that the dialogue between Vietnam and China plays an important role in this problem.

Both sides realize the necessity of holding a Soviet-Chinese summit in the first half of 1989. Qian Qichen invited the Soviet foreign minister to officially visit China in early 1989.

Radio Quotes TASS on Visit

*BK1712050988 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 2 Dec 88*

[Text] According to a TASS report on 1 December, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrived in Moscow for an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of Comrade Shevardnadze, CPSU Politburo member and Soviet foreign minister.

Upon arriving in Moscow, Minister Qian Qichen said: The Chinese and Soviet foreign ministers have met several times in New York to discuss the issue of normalizing relations between the two countries. I hope during this visit to continually exchange views openly with the Soviet colleagues on the Cambodian problem, in order to attain new progress, and on other issues dealing with Sino-Soviet relations.

On the same day in Moscow, Ministers Shevardnadze and Qian Qichen began their talks. Minister Shevardnadze stressed: At present, the processes of important economic changes and the reform of political systems are taking place in the Soviet Union and China. Both countries have instituted plans to renew their socialist societies. In their policies, the Soviet Union and China advance toward broad international cooperation aimed at resolving the global problems of mankind. Both sides

stress the special importance of resolving the most pressing problem of rescuing civilization. In this background, the struggle for peace and the common values of mankind have become causes of prime importance.

This visit of the Chinese foreign minister to the Soviet Union marked a new stage in Sino-Soviet relations. If compared to the past few years, these relations have been qualitatively renewed. Nevertheless, the two countries will not stop here but are still looking to the future.

Minister Qian Qichen said that Chinese-Soviet relations have qualitatively changed thanks to the common efforts of both sides, and he hoped that his visit to the Soviet Union would promote these relations.

Both sides clearly stated that the present political dialogue between the two countries is characterized by constructiveness and openness with broadly debated issues. Both sides clearly pointed out the great importance of Sino-Soviet political consultations at the foreign ministerial level. Both China and the Soviet Union are prepared to continue this dialogue of mutual benefit, and have paid particular attention to the various problems of solving the Cambodian issue. Minister Shevardnadze and Minister Qian Qichen exchanged specific and detailed views on their country's stands, and wished to quickly resolve this regional conflict in a fair and reasonable manner. They stressed the effectiveness of a cooperative attitude to seek domains of unanimous agreement and solutions acceptable to both sides. They also asserted their wish to accelerate the settlement of external aspects of the Cambodian solution while realizing that the internal aspects would be settled through contacts among all Cambodian sides.

Both sides agreed that all problems in the Cambodian issue would be discussed in parallel at the working group that has been established to discuss this issue.

Fiji

Prime Minister Hospitalized After Collapsing

BK1812121488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1153 GMT
18 Dec 88

[Text] Suva, Dec 18 (AFP)- Fijian Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, 68, was in a satisfactory condition at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva on Sunday after collapsing on Saturday, a hospital official said.

Medical Superintendent Josaia Taka refused to say what was wrong with the prime minister but said he would stay in the hospital for observation for several days. He said the premier was eating well.

The prime minister collapsed after finishing a game of golf Saturday.

Vanuatu

President Swears In Interim Government

Dissolves Parliament

BK1812063888 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Vanuatu's president has sworn in an interim government [words indistinct]. President Sokomanu swore in a five-member cabinet headed by Mr Barak Sope despite repeated protests from the prime minister, Father Lini, and other parliamentarians that he has no power to sack them and has acted unconstitutionally.

After taking his oath of allegiance, Mr Sope said his first act would be to secure the loyalty of police, the paramilitary forces, and the civil service. He said he would implement the president's plan for general elections in February. Mr Sope indicated he could seek military help from Australia, New Zealand, and other South Pacific states if the Vanuatu security forces continued to back Father Lini's government.

Yesterday and on Friday, the police and the paramilitary guarded Parliament House in Port Vila while the Parliament ignored President Sokomanu's dissolution order and debated the 1989 budget.

Vanuatu's current problems follow a long political struggle between Father Lini and Mr Sope who was dismissed from the government earlier this year.

Meanwhile, the Australian Government has voiced its official concern at the expulsion from Vanuatu of Radio Australia's South Pacific correspondent (Jemima McGareth). Ms (McGareth) left the country yesterday under threat of arrest.

The Australian Embassy in Port Vila told AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS that Vanuatu officials had taken the action in response to the coverage of the country's political problem and broadcasts on Radio Australia.

Australia's High Commissioner in Port Vila, Mr (Keith Baker), told authorities there that Ms (McGareth's) expulsion was unwelcome.

Radio Australia's Canberra Office says Mr Baker has told President Sokomanu that he has no power to appoint an interim government, and that the prime minister, Father Lini, will continue to be officially recognized by Australia as the head of government.

Lini Defies President

BK1812050488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0449 GMT
18 Dec 88

[Text] Port Vila, Dec 18, (AFP)—Vanuatu President George Sokomanu swore in an interim government Sunday to rule the South Pacific republic as Prime Minister Walter Lini continued to defy an order that Parliament be dissolved.

In a brief ceremony Mr. Sokomanu swore in opposition figures Barak Sope, a former government minister, as prime minister and Union of Moderate Parties (UMP) leader Maxime Carlot as his deputy.

Politicians Willy Jimmy and John Naupa, and former senior civil servant Frank Spooner were sworn in as ministers in the interim government, which was formed after Mr. Sokomanu dissolved Parliament Friday as it opened for the budget session.

Prime Minister Walter Lini and the Parliament maintain that the president does not have the power to dissolve the house and is acting illegally.

The Parliament Saturday continued to debate the Lini government's 1989 budget, as riot police and heavily armed paramilitary maintained a cordon around Parliament House in the centre of Port Vila.

Roadblocks were in place on all roads leading into the capital.

A spokesman for the president said the primary objective of Sunday's move was to take the country up to general elections in February.

Mr. Sope told reporters that his first act would be to secure the loyalty of police, the paramilitary forces, and the civil service.

The president's spokesman said that Mr. Sokomanu was confident of support from the rank and file.

Mr. Sope said that if the police and paramilitary remained with Mr. Lini then he would consider seeking outside help.

Mr. Sokomanu and his supporters have not made any direct approaches to foreign missions in Vanuatu but a letter explaining the president's action has been sent to each diplomatic head.

Australia has said it continues to recognise Mr. Lini's government.

Police on Sunday arrested Jimmy Simon, one of four former government members who resigned from Parliament along with Mr. Sope earlier this year following a failed leadership challenge to Mr. Lini.

A spokesman for Mr. Sope said that Mr. Simon had been taken into custody and was being held at the Port Vila Police Station.

No warrant had been issued and the charges against him were unknown, he added, saying that the former government of Mr. Lini was trying to destabilise the situation.

Sope Arrested After Being Sworn In

BK1812094988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0942 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Port Vila, Dec 18 (AFP)—Barak Sope was arrested Sunday, hours after being sworn in as interim premier by Vanuatu President George Sokomanu, the president said here.

Mr. Sope, 37, was taken into custody at the president's house, Mr. Sokomanu said by telephone.

Mr. Sokomanu swore in an interim government Sunday after dissolving Parliament Friday.

Father Walter Lini, who had been premier since Vanuatu gained independence in 1980, has said the president acted illegally and that he is still the elected head of government.

President Under House Arrest

BK1912063688 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Vanuatu's head of state, President Sokomanu, is reported to have been placed under house arrest in Port Vila. The State House in Vila is reported to be surrounded by guards of the paramilitary Vanuatu Mobile Force. The move against the president follows the arrest of Mr Barak Sope, the main political opponent of the prime minister, Father Walter Lini, and some of his supporters after an attempt to form an interim government.

Mr Sope and 16 other members of the opposition Union of Moderate Parties are reported to be under arrest at Vila's prison. The action by Father Lini's government

follows an attempt over the weekend by President Sokomanu to dissolve Parliament and appoint an interim government under a general election could be held in February. Father Lini said President Sokomanu had no power to act against the elected government.

The Lini government acted against the president after leaflets were distributed in the streets of Vila urging members of the Vanuatu Mobile Force and the police to declare their allegiance to the interim administration headed by Mr Sope.

The leaflets said if the military and police did not switch allegiance to the interim government, the president would call on overseas military help to intervene and disband the security forces.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS [AAP] meanwhile reports that Vanuatu's Supreme Court has banned President Sokomanu from pursuing or talking about the establishment of an interim government in defiance of the country's Parliament. AAP says the court also found that the president acted illegally and unconstitutionally when he declared Parliament dissolved last Friday.

Court Says President's Action 'Illegal'

BK1912034488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0335 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Port Vila, Dec 19 (AFP)—Vanuatu President George Sokomanu acted illegally and unconstitutionally when he dissolved the Parliament and appointed an interim government, the Supreme Court ruled here Monday.

The ruling came barely 12 hours after security forces loyal to Prime Minister Walter Lini had arrested Mr. Sokomanu's supporters.

Chief Justice Frederick Cooke, in two separate judgments, found that under the Constitution the president's role was specific and limited and did not empower him to act the way he had done.

The court further ordered President Sokomanu not to pursue or talk about the establishment of an interim government.

The judicial ruling was read out in Parliament and broadcast on state-controlled Radio Vanuatu after Father Lini delivered an address to the nation from the floor of the house.

Police and paramilitary maintained a cordon around Parliament House in the centre of the city and road blocks were in place at all entry points to the capital.

The government moved Sunday to end the republic's political crisis by arresting leading opponents who joined the president's interim government.

Former Government Minister Barak Sope, who has been locked in a power struggle with Fr. Lini for the past year, was arrested only hours after being sworn in as prime minister of the interim administration.

At least five other people—including the president's private secretary John Kalotiti and Mr. Sope's Press Secretary Richard Kaltoga—were being held at Port Vila Police Station.

Fr. Lini gave no details of the fate of those in custody.

He likened the president's actions to those of Jimmy Stevens, the leader of a 1980 rebellion shortly after independence was granted to Vanuatu, the former Anglo-French condominium of the New Hebrides.

Mr. Stevens is serving a long prison sentence.

Appropriate action would be taken by the Parliament and the government against Mr. Sokomanu according to the Constitution and the laws of Vanuatu, Fr. Lini said, adding that supporters of the president's illegal administration should give up their cause.

Diplomats were considering the implications of Fr. Lini's speech and the court ruling.

One said: "It would appear that the situation has been resolved for the time being, but a lot will depend on how the people of Efate respond."

Efate, the main island, is the power base of the president and Mr. Sope.

President Sokomanu declined to comment on the court's decision.

A spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone that Mr. Sokomanu was not permitted to talk to the media.

"The government has banned all outside contact," the spokesman said.

Earlier, Mr. Sokomanu said in an interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) that he knew his actions on Friday were unconstitutional.

Mr. Sokomanu said he had attempted to dissolve the Parliament so that fresh general elections could be called to resolve the question of the Lini government's legitimacy.

The government holds 35 of the Parliament's 46 seats after by-elections last week to fill 18 seats formerly held by the opposition Union of Moderate Parties' (UMP), which was ousted because it refused to attend parliamentary sittings.

The UMP boycotted those by-elections.

President Sokomanu told the ABC that a peaceful solution to the political crisis would depend on the government.

Australia and New Zealand have said that they recognise Fr. Lini's administration as the duly elected government in Vanuatu.

Lini Reported in Control

BK1912104388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1042 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Port Vila, Dec 19 (AFP)—Vanuatu Prime Minister Walter Lini was firmly in control Monday after securing the support of the courts and foreign governments to defeat a challenge by President George Sokomanu, diplomats said here.

Father Lini jailed 16 opponents late Sunday to quash the interim government Mr. Sokomanu appointed in this South Pacific island republic after his disputed dissolution of Parliament.

Australia and New Zealand threw their support behind Fr. Lini after refusing to recognise Mr. Sokomanu's actions.

The Supreme Court also ruled Monday that Mr. Sokomanu's dissolution of Parliament on Friday and his formation of an interim government was illegal and unconstitutional.

Fr. Lini said in an address to the nation from Parliament that Mr. Sokomanu had breached the Constitution and that he hoped the government and Parliament would take appropriate action against him.

The prime minister acted swiftly against Mr. Sokomanu's supporters, arresting former government Minister Barak Sope late Sunday just hours after Mr. Sope had been sworn in as head of the interim government, Mr. Sokomanu said by telephone.

The state-controlled Radio Vanuatu said 16 people had been arrested, but did not identify them. Mr. Sokomanu said they included two other members of his five-man interim government.

Diplomats said they expected the president to be dismissed by the electoral college that put him into office.

"It's a victory for the prime minister this time, but I wonder if there is not another basic problem in this country," said one diplomat, "the Parliament does not reflect the political reality of the country." [passage omitted]

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